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THE PRINCE OF WALES.

Not for ten years—when the late Prince Consort lay on his deathbed—have her Majesty and the Royal family, and the people of the three kingdoms with them, undergone such intense anxiety as they have endured since the 8th inst. As our readers know, the illness of the Prince of Wales, in its earlier stages, ran a very favourable course, the symptoms being mild, the condition of the Royal patient satisfactory, and everyone sanguine as to the termination of the attack. That state of things continued up till Friday week, when, unhappily, the tone of the official medical bulletins suddenly changed, and ominous forebodings took the place of hopeful anticipations. The Prince had a relapse, the fever became more intense, bronchial and

intestinal complications set in, and the life of his Royal Highness has all this week hung, as it were, upon a thread, and hangs so still at the time we write, though decided developments for good or for evil may show themselves at any moment, and the struggle between life and death be ended ere this sheet meets the reader's eye. As is usual with the malady from which the Prince suffers, great fluctuations in the symptoms have shown themselves: hopes have been excited by apparently favourable indications only to be dashed again by renewed accessions of fever and further exhibitions of adverse influences. Sleep is the great desideratum for the Prince, and of sleep, unhappily, he can get but little—the feverish restlessness is too great. When we commence printing (Thursday night) his Royal Highness

still lives, is even stated to be a little better, and while life endures hope cannot be abandoned; and that is about all that can be said on the subject.

Her Majesty and most of the members of the Royal family are at Sandringham: the Princess of Wales, Princess Alice, and the Duke of Edinburgh being unremitting in watchful care of the Prince. Notwithstanding the great fatigue they all endure, and the intense anxiety under which they suffer, the whole of the Royal family, her Majesty included, bear up wonderfully—a sense of duty, no doubt, sustaining their energies. God grant that when the fate of the Royal patient is decided one way or the other, and the reaction consequent on the withdrawal of the present strain sets in, the Queen and her family may be enabled



ILLNESS OF THE PRINCE OF WALES: READING THE BULLETINS AT MARLBOROUGH HOUSE.



to bear up as well as they do now! The Princess of Germany has been sent for, so that the whole of her Majesty's children will speedily be assembled round the bed of their suffering brother.

Second only in degree to the anxiety of the Royal family has been that of all orders of the people. The Queen's subjects in this time of trouble have shown how profoundly her blameless life and wise discretion in her exalted station have sunk into the national heart and won her people's love. The sympathy exhibited everywhere has been at once deep and respectful. The Prince's illness, and the various fluctuations to which it has been liable, have been the chief theme of conversation in all circles. Business, social engagements, amusements, political controversies (as a rule) have each been put aside pending the result of affairs at Sandringham. The greatest anxiety to obtain intelligence has been everywhere displayed, alike in London and throughout the country; and if good wishes and heartfelt sympathy could avail his Royal Highness aught, he has them in the fullest measure. Here in the metropolis eager inquiries as to the Prince's condition from day to day and from hour to hour have been unceasing. The newspaper offices, the public establishments, the police-stations—wherever the bulletins were posted up—have been besieged by crowds, not one of whom turned away without uttering a word of sympathy and regret. Naturally, the town residence of his Royal Highness, Marlborough House, has been a special place of resort for news; and our Engraving shows the scenes that have been continually exhibited there.

ITALY AT HOME.

ITALY has "made herself" at last. After centuries of discord and disintegration, and consequent subjection to foreigners, she is a nation once more, and has taken possession of her historic capital—Rome. Years have passed away since the fiery spirits whose head was Mazzini and whose hand was Garibaldi began to dream the dream of Italian unity; years, too, have passed since Cavour, with equal determination and more practical wisdom, laid the foundation of that unity in fact, of which others had only talked, but talked to some purpose; years also have passed since popular sentiment first, and the national Parliament afterwards, claimed Rome as the natural political capital of the nation. Grave as were the obstacles that stood in the way of the Italians realising their aspirations after unity and the possession of Rome, they have all vanished one by one; and the Italian Government and Legislature are now at Home, and have been welcomed there with an enthusiasm proportioned to the difficulties overcome. And let no one underrate those difficulties: first, there was the Pope and his surroundings—always hard nuts to crack; next, there was Austrian domination, a rock against which the earlier waves of Italian enthusiasm broke and were scattered; then there was France, which, after aiding in the partial expulsion of Austria, took up the double position of protector of the Pope and dictator to Italy. But, great as was France, a greater than she came to the aid of Italy: if Solferino gave her Lombardy, Sadowa gave her Venetia, and the defeats of the French in 1870 permitted her to take Rome. Thus many things have worked together for the good of Italy; and, despite the *non possumus* of Pio Nono, the crooked policy of Napoleon III., and the insolent "Never" of M. Rouher, the steady resolution of the Italians and the wonderful fortune that has waited upon their efforts have had their rewards. If one were disposed to look for special providences in the affairs of nations, the career of Italy since 1848, and especially since 1859, would seem a succession of providential interferences in her behalf; and these interferences ought to make a deep impression on those who set themselves up as the sole accredited interpreters of the will of Providence, and who are still the most bitter—indeed, the only—enemies of Italian unity and freedom.

For Italy, wonderfully favoured and marvellously successful as she has been, has still an enemy at her gate—yea, in her very centre. There is an ugly skeleton in the national cupboard. The Papacy, if it no longer rules, yet lives, and can make itself not only disagreeable but to some extent dangerous; and what it can do, we may be sure it will do. The late got-up exhibition at the Vatican may be but a poor counterpoise to the enthusiastic demonstrations at Monte Citorio and in the Corso; the impotent revilings uttered by the Pope a miserable answer to the lofty yet simple words in which King Victor Emmanuel declared the work of the nation completed; yet they must not be disregarded on that account. The hissing of the snake and the buzzing of the wasp, though not in themselves deadly, yet betoken that mischief is near, and crave wary walking; and the hope of enlightened humanity will henceforth be that the King, Government, Parliament, and people of Italy will show themselves equal to the fortune that has fallen to their share, and labour to regenerate their country socially and intellectually as well as politically; and, if they do, there will be little to fear from the Papacy and its satellites, crafty and unscrupulous as these may be.

"Socially and intellectually," we say; for it is intellectual and social regeneration of which Italians now mainly stand in need. Italy's sons need physical invigoration; service in the army will do much to accomplish that. They require to accustom themselves to the enjoyment of constitutional freedom; the working of Parliamentary institutions will effect that. They need to re-develop the mental power crushed out by centuries of foreign domination and priestly tyranny; education alone can do that. They must cleanse their country generally, and their new capital particularly, of the foul-

ness, moral and physical, in which clerical laziness and misrule have plunged them. Rome, if she is to be the national capital really as well as nominally, must be made sweet, wholesome, and healthy at all seasons of the year, which she has not been since the Papacy rose on the ruins of the Empire. The Campagna must again be drained and cultivated, and thereby malaria and brigands be banished together; the ancient waterculverts, those grand monuments of the practical wisdom of the old Romans, must be restored, and cleanliness be thereby made possible in Rome; the filth must be cleared out of the Tiber; the roads that lead from "everywhere to Rome" must be repaired, and easy and safe communication with the outward world rendered possible; and the sanitary condition of the city, so woefully neglected under priestly rule, must be seen to. In short, Rome must be made again what she was once—a centre of attraction for all sorts of people, and a safe residence for everyone who enters within her walls. Something has already been done, even in the short time that has elapsed since civil control superseded clerical sway, both to purify and ornament the city; but a great deal more yet remains to be achieved. The members of the Roman municipality have a tough job before them, and ought to receive the substantial aid as well as the sympathetic encouragement of the rest of the kingdom to render its speedy and effectual execution possible. The other cities of Italy and the population of the rural districts ought not, and we hope will not, forget that the revivification of Rome is a national as well as a local task, and should lend ungrudging help in its performance. We do not forget that the nation has a heavy load of general taxation to bear, and that each locality has much to do in putting its own affairs in order. But Rome is common property, and its possession a great inheritance; and to render her again really worthy of her ancient renown, and of the nation of which she is henceforth to be chief city, is deserving of a united effort; and we feel confident that effort will be made by Italians of every grade and wherever situated. The lamp of civilization having been re-lit in the city which was once its great occidental source, must not be allowed to become extinguished for lack of oil.

THE COLLISION ON THE MANCHESTER AND LINCOLNSHIRE RAILWAY.

WE wonder if another series of railway collisions is about to be inaugurated? It usually happens that one of these occurrences is followed by several, and this week bids fair to make good the rule. One happened on Monday, another on Tuesday, a third on Wednesday, and the list may not be even yet closed. The collision on the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire line was characterised by circumstances that seem to us to call for rigid investigation. According to the reports received, three trains were let loose upon the track, from Penistone station, within about as many minutes; one—the express—being out of its usual place. Now, why was this permitted, and who is responsible for so grave a blunder? Then we are told that the drivers of the several trains, "following the signals," ran into a siding at Wortley. But drivers cannot run into sidings of their own mere motion: the points must be arranged so as to enable them to get off the main line; and we should like to know who placed the points in such a state that these trains could run smash in upon the top of each other. The drivers might "mistake the signals," and so fail to "slow" their trains at the proper time; but the signals could have nothing to do with luring the express into the siding if the points had been so arranged as to keep it on the main line—unless, indeed, the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway be managed on a very peculiar system indeed. We hope a Government inspector will make a very rigid scrutiny into this puzzling affair, and let the public know who were to blame.

THE SITTINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPHIC CONFERENCE at Rome are, it is reported, likely to be prolonged for seven or eight weeks. Its members include official representatives of every State in Europe, and also delegates from the principal submarine cables of the world. Mr. Cyrus Field represents the United States—the only country in which the telegraphs continue to be the property of private corporations.

IMPROVEMENTS IN ROME.—Among the improvements about to be made in Rome will be the creation of a magnificent winter garden in the centre of the city, and attached to it there will be a café and a theatre, as well as an open-air theatre for concerts. Connected with the same scheme will be an opera house, which is intended to be the national theatre of United Italy, and the plans for which are being sent from England by an English architect Mr. Walter Emden.

OUTDOOR RELIEF.—A conference took place on Tuesday at the Society of Arts, on the subject of out-patient relief. Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., was in the chair; and among those who took part were Drs. Fairlie Clarke, Meadows, Rogers, Guy, and Acland; Sir C. Trevelyan, Mr. Stansfeld, the Rev. F. J. Kitto, &c. The resolutions, which were unanimously agreed to, were to the effect that there exists a great and increasing abuse of outdoor relief at the various hospitals, and that the best remedy would be the substitution, on a large scale, of provident dispensaries, not only in the metropolis, but throughout the kingdom, by which any person, by the payment of a trifling sum, would be secure of medical assistance in case of need, and through which, being affiliated to the great hospitals, serious or difficult cases may be passed on to the latter.

M. THIERS AND FRENCH FINANCE.—President Thiers's Message leaves very little doubt that he is bent on committing almost every capital error open to him in respect to his financial and fiscal policy. In the first place, he is resolved on denouncing the commercial treaty with England. Not having been able to procure protectionist alterations in it so as to make it a treaty of the old type, which was followed in the negotiation of the recent Alsace and Lorraine Convention, he has resolved on getting rid of it altogether. In the second place, in conformity with this obstinate adherence to protectionist policy, exemplified in denouncing the Anglo-French Treaty, he proposes to increase the Customs duties, including, we observe, a duty of 12 to 15 per cent on fabrics of mixed cotton and wool. If M. Thiers has his way, France will thus be hindered in dealing with its best customer, besides being doubly taxed—for the benefit of the protected home-producer more than of the State. A third blunder of M. Thiers is the policy which he announces respecting the circulation of the Bank of France. Instead of following the manifestly sound policy of paying off the State debt to the Bank, and so enabling it to resume specie payments, he chooses to involve the country in all the evils of an inconvertible currency, which produces mischief enough already, and will become additionally mischievous with each percentage of depreciation. France is paying dearly for the privilege of having a politician of the old school at its head when fiscal errors are in danger of being adopted at so critical a moment. Great as the material injuries of the war have been, we doubt if they will be so serious as the aggravated injuries which these errors of policy will inflict.—*Economist.*

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

There was a scene of great excitement in the National Assembly last Saturday, caused by M. Ordinaire challenging the legality of the judgments of the Commission of Pardons, and, in reply to the shouts of opposition to his statement, exclaiming that it was not the Commission of Pardons, but a Commission of Assassins. The President thereupon moved that the Assembly should pass a vote of censure on M. Ordinaire, which was done amidst cheering and applause. This vote, it seems, involves the loss to M. Ordinaire of half his salary for a month. He will, moreover, be compelled to print, at his own expense, 1000 handbills giving the text of the censure passed upon him, which are to be distributed throughout the district he represents. A bill was subsequently brought in enabling the Government to prosecute journals guilty of insulting the Commission of Pardons, for which urgency was voted. M. Pouyer-Quertier brought in a bill increasing the circulation of the Bank of France to three milliards. In Tuesday's sitting the Assembly adopted a proposal recommending for consideration by the Committee on the Budget the proposal of M. Saisy, fixing the maximum of public salaries and prohibiting a plurality of emoluments. A debate ensued on the proposal of M. Saisy for the alienation of the Crown jewels and movable Crown property, and the application of the proceeds of the sale to the rebuilding of the French towns destroyed by the German army. The Assembly rejected the alienation of movable property, and adopted, by 289 votes against 277, the recommendation of the Committee for the alienation of the Crown jewels, excepting only those having artistic or historic value.

M. Thiers still strongly favours the return of the Government to Paris, and has requested to be heard on this subject before the Committee of Parliamentary Initiative, which will examine the proposal of M. Duchâtel, for which the Assembly refused urgency. The question will again shortly be brought before the Assembly.

Certain representatives of the Extreme Right, who were sent as a deputation to the Duke d'Aumale, requested him to promise that he would repudiate all Republican tendencies, even in appearance, and that he would give efficient help in consolidating monarchical ideas. The Duke replied that, although he did not conceal his true sentiments towards monarchy, he could not consent to enter into such an engagement, and relinquish his moral liberty.

M. Gambetta has declared war to the knife against M. Thiers since his Message, and daily attacks him with great virulence. The *Siècle*, which is very bitter in its enmity to M. Thiers for submitting to the majority, says that the deference of the President to the Assembly is unworthy of his character and of the position he occupies. This language is truly Jacobin. The Left threatens to demand without cessation a dissolution of the Chamber, and to refuse to vote a law of exile against the Bonapartes unless the Bourbons be included in the bill.

The Court of Revision has rejected the appeals of the assassins of Generals Thomas and Lecomte.

ITALY.

In Tuesday's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies General Ricciotti laid on the table a bill for the reorganisation of the army, and Signor Ribotti a bill for the reorganisation of the navy.

Signor Sella then made his financial statement, which shows a total deficit, including the new expenses to be incurred for the reorganisation of the army and navy, of from 148 to 160 million lire. Signor Sella gave a lengthy explanation in reference to the financial management of all branches of the Administration during the last ten years, and enumerated the large increase in several taxes and the progress made in the sale of the national domains. He next pointed out the economical advance of the country, and referred to the returns of imports and exports, the latter having risen in value to one milliard lire, and being in excess of the imports, the total commercial movement having increased by two fifths. The Minister then showed that the revenue derived from the taxes exhibits an enormous increase, and stated that during the previous ten years the produce of the taxes had augmented from 160 million to 500 million lire, and the revenue derived from State monopolies from 175 to 296 million. The grist tax yields at present 4½ million lire per month. Signor Sella then spoke of the revenue of the postal and telegraph administration, and mentioned the increase derived from the railways. He explained the present state of the National Debt, saying that Italy had redeemed a portion of her Rentes, and he entered into many details on that point. Finally, Signor Sella brought forward several proposals for the improvement of the service of the Public Treasury by the assistance of five bankers. He further proposed that the circulation of the National Bank should be increased to 100 millions. He announced that the Budget will contain several new taxes amounting to 30 million lire, the principal of which will be laid upon woven goods and petroleum, and will also comprise some new registration and stamp duties. He further announced an optional conversion of the National Loan into Consolidated Rentes and a financial operation in connection with ecclesiastical bonds, which would result in a diminution of the debt due by the State to the National Bank. The realisation of these proposals would together yield 730 million lire, which are required to cover the deficit of the next five years. The Minister, referring to the general improvement of the public credit, proposes that the issue price of the Rente should not be under 85. In conclusion, Signor Sella said, "It is time for Italy to follow a Conservative policy." This financial statement was received most favourably.

In reply to an address presented to him the other day, the Pope spoke in the gloomiest terms of the present state of Rome. Not only was impiety spreading, but heresy was openly being taught, and men went about the streets to entice children to school with money, and instruct them in error. Was Rome, he asked, that had always been the centre of Catholicism and truth, to become now the centre of heresy?

La Riforma of Rome publishes a letter from Garibaldi, dated Caprera, Nov. 25, on the subject of Nice. The General says it would be a great mistake to suppose that he is indifferent to the fate of the country where he drew his first breath, and where the bones of his kindred lie. To deny that Nice is Italian would be to deny the light of the sun. Garibaldi says he feels certain that there would be no difficulty in arranging the matter with the honest part of the French people, by proving to them how fraudulent was the Bonapartist plebiscitum; but to convince the Chauvins would be another matter, and he has little hope that an understanding will be arrived at without much bloodshed. Cosmopolitan as he is, he would be very happy, he adds, to sacrifice his declining life for his native land.

SPAIN.

The rumour is circulating in Madrid that Senores Angulo and Montojo will secede from the Cabinet, that Senor Candau will take the portfolio of Finance, Senor Sagasta the Home portfolio, and Senor Venancio Gonzalez that of Public Works. The dissolution of the Cortes is considered imminent. The *Iberia*, however, denies the correctness of the rumour with respect to a Ministerial crisis.

A decree has been issued removing from office the Public Prosecutor of the Supreme Court of Madrid, on account of a circular against certain associations issued by him in opposition to the political ideas of the Government.

GERMANY.

In last Saturday's sitting of the Lower House the Minister of Finance brought in a bill for the reform of the taxation system. In explanation he stated that the object of the Government bill was to lighten the burden of taxation to the lowest classes of the population, and still further to carry out the system of direct taxation. With regard to the economies to be effected in 1872

and 1873, the Government would not confine itself to the one million already anticipated, but would propose to abolish the grist tax, the slaughtering tax, and the classification tax in the lowest ranks.

The semi-official *Provincial Correspondence* of Berlin, reviewing M. Thiers's Message to the National Assembly, says:—"The repeated and unreserved declaration of M. Thiers that France will not deviate from her solemn promise may be accepted as a fresh pledge for the earnest design of the Government to make, as far as it is concerned, the ideas of peace prevail. Looking upon the disposition of a great portion of the French population, it must be ascribed to the Government as a proof of moral courage that it did not shun openly to reprove the feelings of revenge prevalent among the people and the aberrations of French justice."

RUSSIA.

The Russian Military Order of St. George held a banquet at St. Petersburg, on the 8th, at which the Emperor was present. His Majesty proposed the health of the Emperor of Germany as the chief living Knight of St. George, and of "those brave knights of our military order belonging to his brave army, worthy representatives of whom I am proud to see in our midst. We desire and hope that the intimate friendship which unites us will be perpetuated in future generations, as also the brotherhood of arms. In this friendship existing between our two armies, which dates from a memorable epoch, I see the best guarantee for the maintenance of peace and legal order in Europe." Prince Frederick Charles of Prussia replied to the toast and proposed the health of the Emperor of Russia. Much significance has been attached to this incident, as the Emperor Alexander's words are understood to embody his policy towards Germany and to be designed to damp the hope entertained in France of an alliance with the Czar. The German Knights of St. George present were Prince Frederick Charles—that is to say, Metz, Orleans, Le Man; Prince August of Wurtemberg—that is to say, St. Privat; Prince Hohenlohe-Tagelsbuden, who bombarded Paris; General Alvensleben, whose pluck stopped the French armies at Vionville; General Werder, who took Strasburg and defeated Bourbaki, the last hope of the French war party; General Baditzky, the hero of Le Bourget; and last, but certainly not least, the silent Field Marshal Count Moltke. These are the men whom the Emperor Alexander made, during the war, knights of the highest military order of Russia, and whom he has now, after peace has been concluded, invited to be his guests in St. Petersburg. One may turn these facts round and round; they do most certainly not look like unfriendly feelings between Russia and Germany, or like a Franco-Russian alliance against the victors of the French armies and the conquerors of the French fortresses.

THE UNITED STATES.

The precarious condition of the Prince of Wales creates the most intense interest and anxiety throughout the country, and prayers for his recovery have been offered up in several churches.

Several members of the International Society have been arrested for attempting to parade on Sunday in defiance of a prohibitory order of the police. At a meeting of the society it was resolved to parade next Sunday, and the working men of New York have been invited to join the procession. A disturbance is feared.

CANADA.

The Lieutenant-Governor formally opened the first Session of the second Legislative Assembly of Ontario on the 8th inst. The Speech points to the continued and unexampled prosperity of the province, alludes to the improved class of emigrants who have arrived during the year, and adds that there is a large surplus fund in hand available for public objects. The telegram announcing the precarious condition of the Prince of Wales was received during the sitting, and elicited profound sympathy.

AN ACTION FOR BREACH OF PROMISE was tried, on Monday, in the Court of Exchequer. The plaintiff was Miss Charles, aged only seventeen years, and the defendant Mr. Peck, a colonial spice-merchant in the City. The wedding day was fixed, the bridesmaids appointed, the dresses made, and then at the last moment he refused to fulfil his contract. The jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff—damages, £125.

SCARCITY OF SEAMEN.—There is a great scarcity of seamen on the Tyne, and large steamers and sailing-vessels have some difficulty in making up their hands. The rapid development of steam tonnage has been the occasion of a considerable demand for seamen, and wages from the Tyne are £3 15s. per month. Firemen are better paid than seamen, and many of the latter are turning firemen. There will be great difficulty in rearing seamen in the future, as steamers take few, if any, boys for apprentices, and sailing-ships seem to be rapidly going out.

WILLIAM ANTHONY, twenty-one, a blacksmith, was convicted of arson, at the Central Criminal Court, on Wednesday. It will be remembered that the prisoner was supposed to have caused no fewer than 160 or 170 fires, for the sole purpose of securing the reward given to the person who takes the earliest news to the engine and fire-escape stations. It was stated that whereas the fires from unknown causes in the metropolis had for some time numbered twenty-five or thirty per month, they had since the apprehension of the prisoner dropped to three. He was sentenced to twelve years' penal servitude.

THE FAMINE IN PERSIA.—The horror of the famine in Persia has not yet reached its climax. Major S. A. Smith, assistant-resident, writing from Bushire, says the people are worn to skeletons, the children "to famished beasts," and some of them are always trodden down and killed in the daily rush for the English rice. Mr. A. J. S. Adams, travelling in Teheran about two months ago, says, in a note published by the *Sunderland Times*, that in the crowds who swarm in the barrack-square to receive a dose of small silver from the Shah, hundreds, men and women, are literally stark naked, worn to the bone, and covered with sores. The people follow the visitor howling for bread; "two men lie upon the ground, quite dead, and a third is laid upon one side of the bazaar, covered with a piece of dirty cotton. A naked woman lies in the agony of death, surrounded by a crowd of beings almost as badly off as herself. The next form is that of a woman, who scrapes from the ground a handful of melon-seed and filth, which she divides between her two children." This is one morning's ride. There is no help for any of them, though the Shah has—as Mr. Murray testifies—bucketsful of jewels in the private treasury, for the famine cannot end until July.—*Spectator*.

BRITISH TRADE WITH FRANCE.—The Board of Trade annual returns recently issued, show that the imports of merchandise from France into the United Kingdom in 1870 were of the computed real value of £37,697,514, the highest amount ever reached in any year. The exports to France of produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom were of the declared real value of £11,643,139, an amount which has only been twice exceeded—viz., in 1866 and 1867. The exports to France from the United Kingdom in 1870 of foreign and colonial produce and manufactures were of the computed real value of £10,339,880, which is a less amount than usual of late years. Our total trade with France in 1870—imports thence and exports thereto—amounted, therefore, to £59,690,513. This total has only once been exceeded—viz., in 1866. Our import of most articles of food from France in 1870 was smaller than usual; they were more needed there. The following articles show a large increase:—The import into the United Kingdom from France of silk manufactures (stuffs and ribbons) reached the enormous value of £10,082,772; of brandy, £2,138,852; of woollen manufactures, £2,278,627; of sugar, £2,361,667. These amounts exceed those of all previous years. Our import of wine from France in 1870 reached the unprecedented quantity of 4,779,674 gallons, but the computed value of the import declined to £1,468,170; of the value of £961,288; of butter to £1,672,899. Our imports of the raw material of textile manufactures show a large increase. The whole list of our imports of merchandise from France in 1870 shows a value more than double that of the list for any year before 1862, when the full effect of the commercial treaty began to be seen. The list for 1870 includes, besides the great items already mentioned, eggs, £864,619; artificial flowers, £245,046; lace, £222,344; oil-seed cake, £298,052; rape-seed oil, £231,028; clover seeds, £197,364. The principal exports to France, in 1870, of produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom comprise the following:—Woolens, £2,292,708; arms and ammunition, £943,834, showing a very great increase over preceding years; coals, £920,383; cottons, £895,087; iron (wrought and unwrought), £505,647; machinery, £287,827; copper (wrought and unwrought), £257,379; telegraphic wire, £208,499. The export of horses was much larger than usual, but still the number was no more than 4954. Wheat and bread also present a great increase; the year's export reached £245,645. The exports to France of foreign and colonial produce show that the country took much less than usual of raw cotton, silk, and wool, which are the three chief articles in the list. The year, we need hardly say, was a broken year—good for trade at first, very bad for trade at last. But the amounts are very large, and the trade will prosper and increase if laws and lawmakers will let it.

M. THIERS'S MESSAGE TO THE FRENCH ASSEMBLY.

M. THIERS read his Message to the French Assembly on the 7th inst., but no report reached us in time for our last week's Number.

The sitting began at two o'clock. M. Grévy returned thanks for being re-elected President, saying that he accepted this fresh mark of confidence on the part of the Assembly with the more pleasure as it did not impose any sacrifice on his convictions.

M. Thiers then proceeded to read his Presidential Message. It points to the daily progress made in the re-establishment of peace without and reorganisation within. In order to appreciate this progress, M. Thiers says it must never be forgotten to what condition the Empire had brought France. "After an insurrection without parallel in history, we are able to say that the amount of good exceeds the amount of evil. Our relations with Europe have become peaceable and cordial. Our position to Prussia is exactly defined. The taxes are being paid regularly. Our army was our first consolation in our misfortunes. Order is completely re-established. The National Guards have been disarmed without resistance. For a complete reorganisation of France we must look to time and to God, and to all endowed with the intellect of modern society. The situation is as favourable as it could be after such a disastrous war. The policy of France henceforth is a policy of enduring and dignified peace. If, contrary to all probability, events should disturb that peace, the deed will not be that of France. France must become once more what she has a right to be, in the interest of all States. France will be true to her solemnly-pledged word. Moreover, the States that took part in the war are fatigued. The witnesses had become seriously alarmed."

The Message then enters into details of the relations between France and the other Powers of Europe.

The Message announces the conclusion of a convention with Germany for a customs treaty with Alsace and Lorraine.

"While awaiting the definite liberation of the country, we have applied ourselves to separate the population from the German soldiers, who are now quartered in barracks. We ask the people to restrain their resentment, which would not abridge their sufferings, but might compromise the safety of France. The life of a f. reigner is as sacred as the life of a countryman."

M. Thiers goes on to say:—

"Our relations with Spain continue amicable. We likewise maintain a good understanding with Italy. The independence of the Holy See must be rigorously upheld. As regards Rome, we offer no counsels, for we give no advice to anyone, and, least of all, to an aged man, who enjoys all our respect and sympathy. With regard to Austria, we sincerely wish her prosperity. As regards Russia, the most cordial relations exist between that country and France. They are the result of an elevated and reciprocal appreciation of the interests of both countries. There is therefore nowhere ground for anxiety. Commerce and labour may resume their vigour with entire confidence."

The Message reverts to the situation of the interior. It acknowledges the difficulty of establishing a good administration. "We may say to-day that we receive from all sides marks of satisfaction." (This passage was received with noisy interruptions by the Right.)

M. Thiers added that the present session of the Councils-General was a proof of public spirit, conciliation, and prudence.

Referring to the financial position of the country, the Message adverts to the fact that under the Empire the Budget had reached the sum of 2,200,000,000. "Nothing was paid off, and the army was neglected. We had 200,000 men to oppose 700,000 of the enemy. We thus arrived at an increase of debt to the amount of eight milliards, of which we paid the interest. We have besides to strengthen our frontiers. The expenditure will be reduced by 128,000,000; nevertheless, the ordinary and extraordinary Budgets will reach a total of 2,742,000,000, including the provincial expenditure. In twenty years we have had an increase of 1,250,000,000 of expenditure. This we owe to the Empire."

The Message announces that the army will henceforth consist of 150 regiments of infantry, counting 2000 bayonets each, and four guns for every 1000 men.

The floating debt will be reduced to 628,000,000. The redemption will take place regularly. The Message further says that the National Assembly will choose between duties on raw material and other duties which will be submitted to it.

The Message gives particulars with regard to exchange operations and the purchase of foreign bills. It alludes to the monetary crisis, and states that the Bank of France will be authorised to increase the circulation by 400, 500, or 600 million francs, and to issue small notes. The Message concludes by saying that the financial situation is as satisfactory as can be desired under the circumstances. Reverting to army organisation, to the necessary time required for it, and to compulsory service, M. Thiers said that every Frenchman owes his blood to the country when that is in danger, but does not admit that in time of peace every Frenchman should be draughted into active service. That would be disorganising civil life and ruining the finances. (Numerous protests were raised against this part of the Message.)

M. Thiers continued:—"If such a course should be followed France would be lost. We propose compulsory service in time of war, and an annual contingent of 90,000 men in time of peace. The young men will draw lots, the lowest numbers will enter upon active service. We shall thus have 800,000 men, of whom 450,000 will remain five years with the colours. The others will remain at home to guard the cities." M. Thiers finally said, "France desires peace and order. She requires military and financial reorganisation. This is her right towards all, and towards ourselves. No one can find fault with it. The haven is before us. We can already sight it. I appeal to the moderation and sense of justice in the Assembly, which should rise above all party spirit. I rely upon your wisdom; the country will be just towards you for services rendered."

The Message says that France has suffered much from treaties of commerce, and, after giving a statement of pending negotiations, concludes with the words:—

"We have arrived at the resolution to give notice of the termination of the treaty with England in February next, and to negotiate on the question during the year the treaty remains in force."

M. Thiers made no allusion in his Message either to the constitutional question or to the return of the Assembly to Paris, or to the Orleans Princes taking their seats in the Assembly.

THE TRIAL OF THE REV. J. S. WATSON for the murder of his wife has been postponed until the January sessions, on account of the illness of a material witness for the defence.

ALLEGED MURDER.—A crime is supposed to have been committed a few nights ago in the New Kent-road. A betting man named John Roberts had a quarrel with another betting man named Collard, or Walsh, aged twenty-three, and wounded him with a sabre so seriously that he died on Wednesday morning at Guy's Hospital. After the commission of the crime Roberts effected his escape, but the police have obtained warrants, which will enable them to search the houses of his friends, and, as he is well known, it is believed that he will be arrested shortly.

FUNERAL CEREMONY AT CHAMPIGNY.

As we stated last week, the anniversary of the battle of Champigny was solemnly celebrated, on Saturday, December 9, on the site of the battle. About 8000 persons assisted at the religious ceremony. The Governor of Paris and several Generals were present. The Archbishop of Paris delivered an address of an entirely religious character, in which he paid an honourable tribute to the memory of the victims of the war who fell on that day. After mass General Ducrot likewise addressed the multitude. The General said, amongst other things—"We have nothing to regret as soldiers. We have done our duty to the last." General Ducrot added:—"After this battle the moment was favourable for treating with the enemy, after having resisted sufficiently to save our

honour; history will ask 'Why was peace not at that time concluded, under better conditions than could subsequently be obtained?' The General's speech was warmly applauded. The greatest order prevailed during the ceremony. No demonstration was made. Some precautionary measures taken by the police proved entirely unnecessary. The battle of Champigny, as our readers will remember, was fought on the occasion when Generals Trochu, Ducrot, and their colleagues in Paris made the "great effort" to break through the German lines, and failed. That failure really decided the result of the siege, for further effort having a chance of success was impossible.

OPENING OF THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENT IN ROME.

POPULAR ENTHUSIASM.

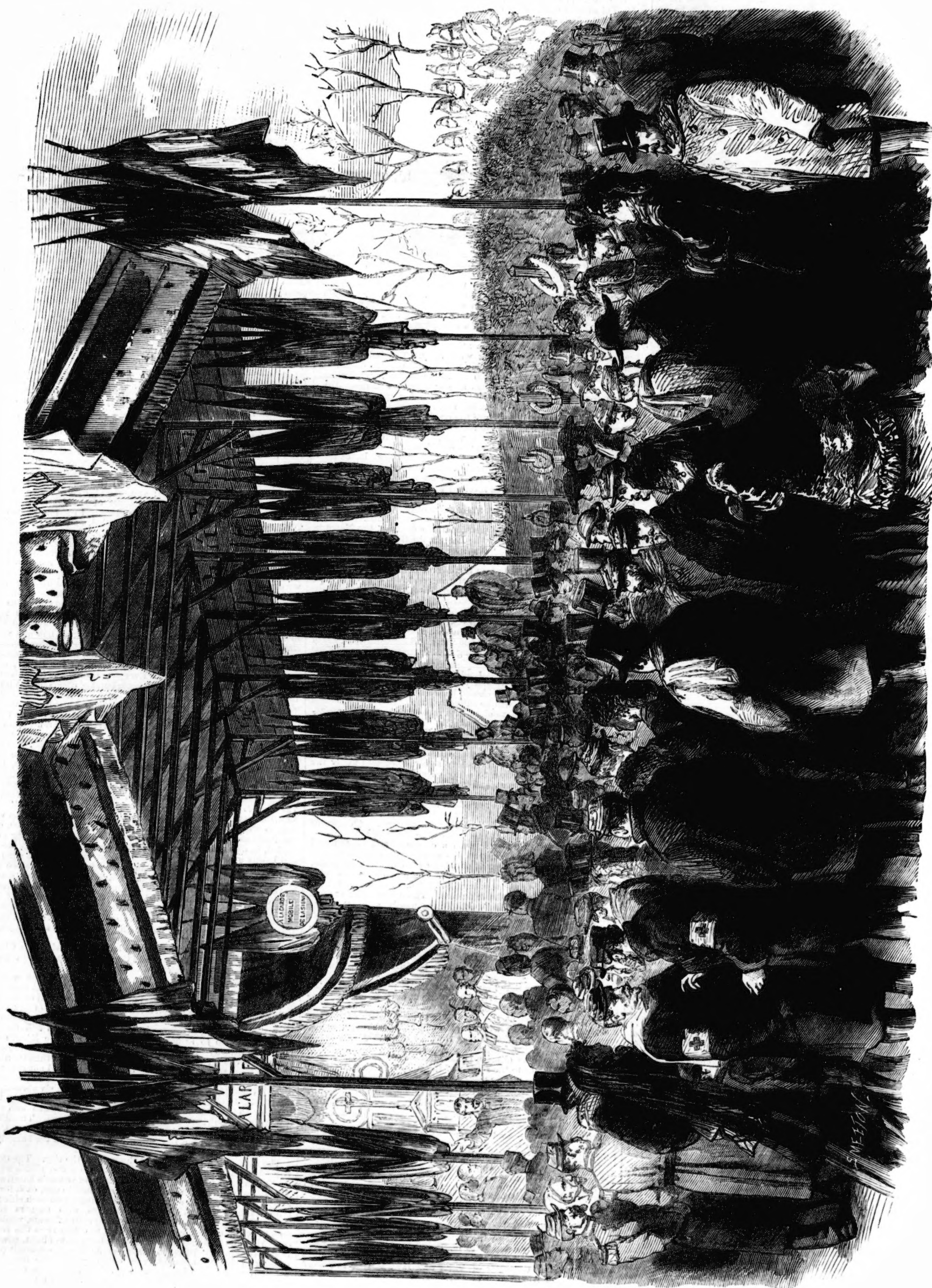
The skies smiled their brightest on Victor Emmanuel and the first opening of the Italian Parliament at Rome, on the 27th ult. For some days the principal streets and piazzas had been the scene of extraordinary bustle and excitement, consequent on the extensive preparations to do honour to the day. The Corso had been almost impassable, partly by the pavement being torn up in all directions for the laying down of additional gaspipes to feed the series of great arches thrown across every 60 ft. throughout its length, and partly by the crowds watching the novel proceedings of Signor Ottino's men, under whose direction the illumination given by the municipality has been placed, and on which they expended 160,000 francs. Great as were the anticipations of the result, the Romans were agreeably surprised by the complete transformation the Corso had undergone during the night of the 26th. Midway between each arch festoons of scarlet drapery, valanced and fringed with gold, had been hung across the street from roof to roof. These, together with the arches, the customary display of flags, and the Carnival decorations with which all the windows and balconies were garnished, gave the Corso the appearance of a gorgeously magnificent arcade. Around the Piazza of Monte Cavallo, and along the entire route to be traversed by the King on his way to the Chambers, *pali* taller than the highest houses had been erected at short intervals. Each of these sprang from a great basket of flowers supported on a pedestal, and bore trophies with the arms of one or other of the Italian cities, while from their summits waved enormous pennon-like banners. By nine o'clock the entire line of the procession, the Piazza Colonna, and every street opening upon Monte Citorio were densely thronged. The passage of the King to the Chambers was one continued ovation, of which our Engraving will convey some idea. Hearty cheers and waving of hats and handkerchiefs accompanied his Majesty all the way from the Quirinal Palace, and, altogether, a more cordial reception could not have been given.

For days unheard-of efforts had been made to obtain places for the opening, people of distinction, to say nothing of others, going down upon their knees, imploring, beseeching, intriguing, even offering large sums of money, but all in vain—no tickets were issued in excess of the number the Chamber would accommodate. Although this was known, the doors were besieged for a full hour before the time of opening by those who had been fortunate enough to obtain tickets; and, when the gates were opened, in went the rush, as if, after the manner of the Sixtine Chapel, only one ticket in fifty could secure a place. In a few moments every part devoted to the public was filled, and there was still an hour to wait the arrival of the King. It passed quickly, however, in watching the deputies and senators as they came dropping in—at first one by one, and then in groups as the time approached, till a brilliant assemblage finally crowded the diplomatic tribune. The Ambassadors or Ministers of every Power were present, except England, which was represented by the Secretaries of Legation. The Emperor and Empress of Brazil were present in the diplomatic tribune. At twenty minutes to eleven Princess Margherita, accompanied by her ladies and gentlemen in waiting, entered her tribune. At eleven to the moment, the time appointed, the King, wearing the new and very simple uniform of a general officer, entered the Chamber, accompanied by Prince Humbert, Prince Carignano, General de Sonnaz, his first aide-de-camp, Prince Doria, Prefect of the Palace, and other officers of the household. Everyone rose at the instant, and received the King with an enthusiastic burst of cheers for "Victor Emanuel," shouts of "Evviva il Rè," with clapping of hands and waving of handkerchiefs, in acknowledgment of which he repeatedly bowed as he stood before the dais. In a few moments he took his seat on the gilded fauteuil which served as a throne, placing his little round cap, ornamented with a single aigrette, upon the ground, Prince Humbert standing on his right, Prince Carignano on his left. Signor Lanza, Minister of the Interior, having expressed the King's command that all should sit, the King began to read his speech in a full, clear voice, in which, however, there were evident signs of emotion, and the paper visibly shook in his hand:—"Signori Senatori, Signori Deputati,—The work to which we have consecrated our life is completed." In an instant everyone was standing, and the burst of applause was such as altogether threw that which had greeted his entrance, enthusiastic as it was, completely into the shade. As the King proceeded, in distinct and clearly-marked periods, he was repeatedly and loudly applauded, and particularly at those portions wherein he said that "the legislative measures to be laid before the Chamber for the regulation of the religious corporations would leave intact those institutions which form part of the government of the Universal Church," and "that in the separation of the State from the Church, having recognised the full independence of the spiritual authority, he was entitled to full confidence in Rome, the capital of Italy, continuing the peaceful and respected seat of the Pontificate."

Immediately the King had concluded the bells of Monte Citorio rang out a response to those of the Capitol, announcing to the city the inauguration as complete.

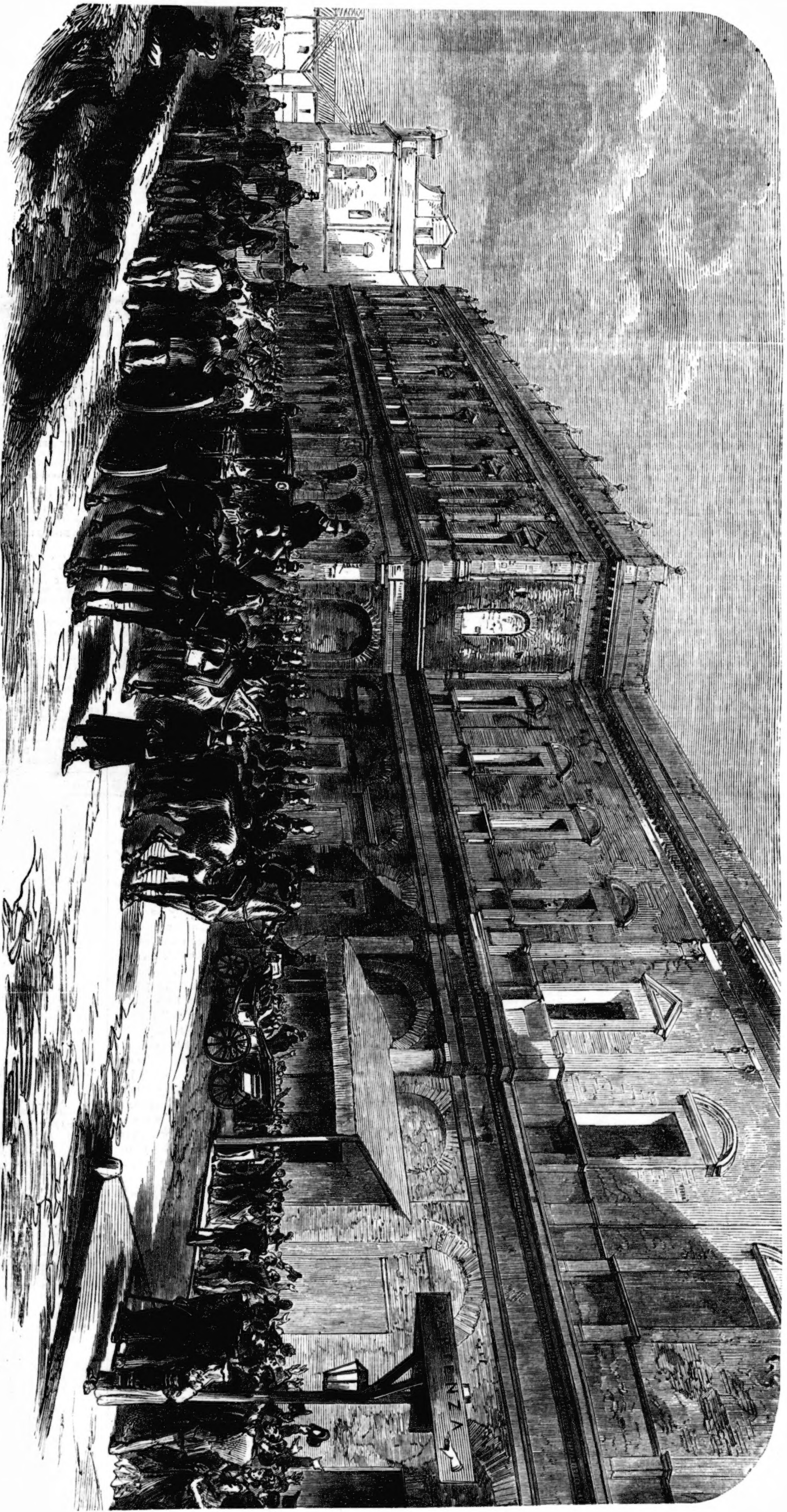
Not the least important part in the day's proceedings was the demonstration made by the working classes. These in Rome are divided into numerous clubs and unions. By mutual consent, in the quietest and most unobtrusive manner, unheard of and unnoticed in the bustle of the preparations, they agreed to meet in the Piazza del Popolo, and march with their banners and insignia along the Corso to salute the Parliament and the King, as he passed on his way to the Chamber. The density of the crowd in the Corso caused their progress to occupy more time than had been anticipated, and the head of the column did not reach the Piazza Colonna till after the King had passed. The procession went up the Corso a long, continuous line of men, six abreast, the dense crowd opening gradually for them, and applauding as they passed. They marched through the Piazza Colonna and went direct to the Quirinal, to await the King's return. There they gave him an enthusiastic greeting, not only as he drove up, but when he reappeared a few minutes afterwards on the balcony in answer to their shouts.

The illumination was brilliant throughout the city. The Corso, Ripetta, and Campidoglio and adjacent streets and piazzas were a moving mass of people enjoying the result of Ottino's handiwork. The arches which spanned the Corso from end to end, each formed by double half-circles of burners, and springing on each side from triple baskets filled with green branches, with burners round their edges inclosed in white globes to represent flowers, made the street a brilliant arcade gorgeously rich in colour from the scarlet draperies, and culminating in a gigantic fairy tent of light, covering the entire Piazza del Popolo. Downwards from the summit of the Obelisk to the limits around extended many diverging lines, from which quantities of hyacinth and other flower-like forms depended, and from which were hung small coloured lamps which formed the petals. This velarium of light was supported at the sides on poles which had been transformed into gigantic hyacinths, with clusters of bells and pendant lamps. Between each of these white draperies ornamented with scarlet were looped to inclose the whole. Around the obelisk were other four of these brobdingnagian flowers; and upon it, turned towards the Corso,



ANNIVERSARY FUNERAL CEREMONY ON THE BATTLE-FIELD OF CHAMPIGNY.

DEC. 16, 1871



OPENING OF THE ITALIAN PARLIAMENT IN ROME: ARRIVAL OF THE KING BY THE NEW RAILWAY IN TERMINI SQUARE.

was a double revolving star of gas, visible from the other extremity. The Ripetta, in its entire length from the Popolo to the Senate House, was festooned from side to side across the street with numberless devices like bell-shaped flowers of many forms, producing a charmingly varied and fairy-like vista. The small obelisk of the Rotonda was converted into an enormous palm-tree springing from a bed of flowers, while the portico of Agrippa's Temple to all the Gods was illuminated by a pale green light, and looked majestically grand and weird. The Capitol was a perfect blaze, the outlines of the columns, bases, capitals, fountains, and cornices were lines of light. The tower seemed to rise from a great bouquet, formed of var-coloured lamps; and on the summit blazed a great star of Italy, visible from every point of the city.

A COUNTER-DEMONSTRATION AT THE VATICAN.

At the self-same hour when Victor Emmanuel entered the Chamber the

halls of the Vatican, the *Osservatore Romano* informs us, "were crowded by the elite of the Roman patriots, of the bourgeoisie, and of the strangers (admitted by ticket, not difficult to obtain) sojourning in the city. It was an act of homage and devotion offered by them as subjects on this day to the prisoner of the Vatican." His Holiness having ascended the throne in the Hall of the Consistory, the following address was read "by one of the most distinguished of the Roman Princes" (no name given):—

"Most Blessed Father,—On this unhappy day we have not been able to refrain from hastening hither, around the throne of your Holiness, in order to express the indignation of our souls and all the grief we feel for the manner in which in this unhappy Rome, your holiest rights are this day trodden under foot. In the name of the Roman nobility, of the bourgeoisie, and of all the good people of Rome, we loudly protest against the sacrilegious act now being consummated. Receive, O Holy Father,

this our testimony of fidelity, of devotion, and of affection, and condescend to sustain us with your apostolic benediction."

Immediately after this a young lady of patrician family (no name given) threw herself at the foot of the throne and read another address to the like effect. Then, with congratulations for his vigorous health and cheerfulness, which was considered to be a pledge that the Virgin would not desert him who had proclaimed her greatest glory on earth, the address ended with a request for the usual benediction. Finally, a *nobilissimo* representative of the strangers at present in Rome (no name given) read a third address, so entirely of the same nature that it is unnecessary to give it either. The *Osservatore* then gives a résumé of the Pope's reply, and says:—

"He condescended finally to speak of that conciliation blated forth by the impious, who had even gone so far this last few days as to fore-shadow it by allusive pictures—conciliation by which the enemies of God

hope to conquer our noble resistance and disarm our holiest rights; and here, raising his voice, he protested solemnly that no conciliation would ever be possible between Christ and Belial, between the light and the darkness, between truth and falsehood, and then, raising his eyes and arms to heaven, he prayed the Omnipotent to sustain the force of His Vicar in the hard struggle, and fortify by Divine aid his constancy, offering to sacrifice his life sooner than yield to the insane devices of triumphant iniquity."

So much for the words of Pius IX. His actions, however, have of late shown a kinder feeling towards the arch offender, for by his express permission, the Piccolomini Church of the Santo Spirito, restored by the King, has lately been re-consecrated, and there Victor Emmanuel attends mass regularly on Sundays and holidays at 7.30 a.m., while Prince Humbert and Princess Margherita drive there in state to the fashionable Messa Cantata at 10.30.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH COMMERCIAL TREATY.

THE following is a full translation of that portion of M. Thiers's Message which relates to the Anglo-French Treaty of Commerce:—

"You are all aware that the Government of the Empire concluded with nearly all the Powers whose territory is contiguous to our own commercial treaties which were binding for ten whole years. It was agreed that after the expiration of ten years those treaties might be either revised or denounced—that is, abolished. The principal of them, that with England, has expired now for nearly a year; that concluded with Belgium reached its term about six months ago; the third, that with Prussia, came to an end by the war. The others, of less importance, with Austria, Switzerland, and Italy, have three or four years to run. But the three most important—because they affect our frontiers most closely—those concluded with England, Belgium, and Prussia, depend only upon your will. They will endure or disappear as you shall decide. I need not recall to you the opposition which was raised to those treaties in France at the period of their conclusion. It was not because absolute prohibition was abolished that they were objected to—for such prohibitions were henceforth condemned, and I who have the honour to address you have never exercised power without having abolished some such—what was objected to in those treaties was, that they were concluded without the nation having been consulted; that absolute freedom was introduced without any preparation; that by them all our manufactures were left unprotected all at once; that they accepted insufficient tariffs drawn up by the foreign commissioners, to the exclusion of our own; and that thus they caused to the most important of the national productions, such as iron, tissues of all kinds, agricultural products, and especially the mercantile marine, an immense injury, which will for a long time be felt by Alsace, Lorraine, Champagne, Burgundy, Flanders, Normandy, and Brittany. If, to-day, after the war which has caused the disappearance of all stocks, a real activity has been restored to those various branches of our industry, when once those stocks are replaced the difficulty will reappear under the renewed pressure of foreign competition. Some months before the fall of the late Government, the Corps Législatif itself, perceiving the mistakes of the Empire without daring to speak of them, and attempting unsuccessfully to repair them, directed an inquiry into the treaties of commerce, whose denunciation was loudly called for. It appeared from that inquiry that the mercantile marine was ruined, that the iron manufacture was deeply injured, that cotton thread and cloths and linen thread had suffered greatly, that the mixed tissues of Roubaix were almost destroyed, and that agriculture was suffering in some of its most essential products, that of wool especially. The conclusion generally drawn was, that upon all those points some remedy must be applied for a state of things which was becoming worse from day to day, and particularly with respect to the mercantile marine, which the foreign warehouses were causing to disappear. The war, which effaced all ruin by those of its own creation, caused this state of things to be forgotten for a moment; but peace having been re-established, it has again presented itself before our eyes, much modified, it is true, by the revival of labour, but modified only for the moment, unfortunately not for always. We could indeed denounce these treaties, subject, be it understood, to your judgment—you who represent the Sovereignty—but it was our duty to negotiate in order to prepare for such denunciation. Immense interests in our workshops, in our agricultural districts, in our ports, awaited and still await that determination. However, we have not adopted it. Our motive for abstaining to do so consisted in the spirit of propriety which should characterise every solid and prudent Government. We could not constitute ourselves the authors of an industrial reaction by substituting a prohibitory system for one of absolute free trade. We propose, while leaving to foreign trade all the freedom compatible with the public welfare, to ensure to our manufacturers, to those who during three quarters of a century have made the fortune of France, the protection of adequate tariffs in order that they might not perish under the unlimited competition of foreigners, sufficient stimulants to prevent them from falling into a state of indolent security, but not sufficient to reduce them to the position of abandoning production; such is the economical policy which we shall propose to you. With this view, although we had a strong preference for the abrogation of the treaties by which we are bound, because we, above all, aim at a recovery of the freedom of our commercial policy, we thought it would be more prudent to propose to England to agree with us to a simple modification of the existing treaties—a modification which we deemed indispensable under the Empire. Thus, while allowing to continue all the tariffs affecting iron, coal, chemical products, glass, porcelain, woollens, salt and fresh fish—in fact, the greater portion of our exchanges—we only proposed to raise in the modest proportions, in some cases of 3 per cent, in others 5 per cent, the duties upon woven tissues of cotton, linen, and wool. With respect to those of mixed wool, which formerly made the fortune of Roubaix, but which, unhappily, does so no longer, we claimed a simple increase of from 12 to 15 per cent. And these modest changes are asked for less to obtain a real increase of the existing tariffs than to ensure their honest application. It happens, in fact, that, owing to false declarations at the custom-house, the tariffs are reduced by 3, 4, or even 5 per cent, so that the increase we proposed would really have had only the effect of ensuring a due application of the tariffs of 1860. Such has been, purely and simply, the proposition made to us by England. We should prefer, we said to the English Government, the denunciation of the treaty, because, like you, we desire to recover the liberty of our commercial relations; but in a spirit of friendship and cordial relations we consent to remain bound by stipulations which are very inconvenient for us, upon condition that those which are so hurtful as to threaten the existence of our principal manufactures are relaxed. This course of proceeding was so natural that it could not meet with, in the first instance, any but a favourable reception. Thus from the first replies of the English Ministers, whether in London or in Paris, we were entertained, if not the certainty, at least a hope that our propositions would be agreed to. Gradually, however, less favourable dispositions became apparent, and nearly a year elapsed without any positive reply, so that the time was passing away to our disadvantage. It, indeed, we had denounced the treaty of 1860 in the month of February last, we should be on the eve of recovering our freedom, for a year must elapse between the denunciation and the abolition of the treaty. Not having done so for reasons I have stated, we have lost nearly ten months, and even now, from the time we shall have expressed a formal desire to denounce the treaty, we must lose a whole year before we can recover our freedom. Endeavouring at last to obtain a positive reply, we have been met not with calculations of tariffs, but with a reason of principle. We have been told, of course with all the courtesy which has been exhibited on each side during this negotiation, that England, by acceding to our wish, would appear to abandon her principles and to lend herself to a step backward on the part of the chief manufacturing nation of the Continent. This reason has not convinced us. If the substance of the treaty had been attacked, such an argument might have been urged. But such an objection when three articles only relating to our textile manufactures are affected, while iron, coal, chemical products, and the greater portion of the articles constituting our exchanges undergo no alteration—such an objection is quite inapplicable to the case. Was there no reason for the stipulation that the treaty should be open to reconsideration at the end of ten years? Was it without any motive that article 21 of the treaty stipulated that after ten years the tariffs should be revised? Either it must be contended that the treaty is for ever unchangeable—in which case the stipulated reservations are without meaning—or it must be admitted that we are availing ourselves of an indisputable right, and one which we are making use of with moderation, when we ask that the treaty of 1860 shall not be abandoned, but only

modified. This, then, is the measure upon which we have definitively agreed (which is comprised in our authority to negotiate, but which would be of no effect should you not approve of it) to denounce the treaty, while consenting still to negotiate for a whole year, so as to date from now, and that the time spent in these further negotiations shall not be lost for us alone, but shall be taken out of the year during which the treaty must remain in force after denunciation. Whatever may occur, abolition or simple modification of the treaty, our political relations with England will be as friendly as in the past, and our tariffs will remain the same as they were except upon those points which have formed the subject of our demands. We can certainly say that no negotiation has ever been conducted with greater moderation or in a more peaceful spirit, and no impartial judge in Europe, or even in England, can condemn us."

THE CHRISTMAS NUMBER

OF

THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES,

To be published on SATURDAY, DEC. 23, price 4d., will contain the following ENGRAVINGS.

A Reverie. Drawn by Miss A. Claxton.
A Merry Christmas. Drawn by H. D. Friston.
On the Ocean: Listening to the Christmas Bells. Drawn by A. Slader.
Christmas Morning in the Country: Arrival of the London Train. Drawn by C. Robinson.
Frozen-Out Foresters in Search of Food. Drawn by F. W. Key.
Wandering Minstrels at Christmastide.
And Illustrations of Current Events.

Together with the following among other

TALES AND POEMS

The Last English Christmas By W. B. Rands.
Next Door to a Mystery By Thomas Archer.
Ma Mère By Clement W. Scott.
Lion and I By Nemo.
A Hymn to Christmas By Sheldon Coadwick.
The Good King Wenceslaus: A Christmas Carol; and
All the News of the Week.

Office, 2, Catherine-street, Strand, W.C., London.

ADVERTISEMENTS intended for insertion in the Christmas Number of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES should be sent in not later than Wednesday next, the 20th inst.



THE TOPIC OF THE HOUR.

THE strong feelings excited by the illness and sufferings of the Prince of Wales, and in various ways in connection with it, constitute a topic by itself. In society it has not been uncommon to hear expressions of wonder at the strength of those feelings; such expressions coming from those who have been most strongly excited. In many of our contemporaries various reasons, political and other, have been given for the deep and pained interest with which we have all hung upon the telegrams from Sandringham since the condition of his Royal Highness became critical. These reasons have been for the most part wide of the mark. Whatever political bearing the public sympathy with the Prince and his Royal relatives may have had, and whatever prognostics may be drawn from it, the roots of our sympathy have not lain in our loyalty, our attachment to the Throne considered as an institution, or any feelings of homage and regard with which we have been accustomed to think of the Queen. The public excitement has had a better and more truly human basis; which is not far to seek. That basis has been similar in kind to what it would have been if one of our own personal acquaintances had been suffering as the Prince has been. People forget how intimate the nation has been with this particular sufferer. He has been always before us. His birth was a public event, and, under the circumstances, the occasion of much excitement to the just then outgoing and incoming Lord Mayors, among others. Then he was again very prominently before us at the time of his father's death. Next came his marriage, which was also a great public event: all the nation being, as it were, present at the nuptials. Then everybody welcomed the young Princess, and liked the young heir to the Throne all the more for her sake. Every incident of the domestic career of the young couple that could possibly come under public notice has done so, and the long illness of the Princess took us all still more closely into the intimacy of herself and her husband. The whole of the sad story of the illness of the Prince himself has been of the most dramatic character. The illness and death of Lord Chesterfield from the same disease, the illness of the groom and others from a similar cause, the striking and very exciting fluctuations in the course of the fever, and the incidents of the family gatherings round the bedside of the sufferer have been well calculated to stimulate the imagination, and through it our sympathies. It may almost be said that we have been present in the sick chamber, watching with the watchers. How should it be otherwise, then, than that we should be deeply stirred? Sympathy with the stricken young man; sympathy with his wife, menaced with a blow which in her case must be so peculiarly heavy, considering her youth and the long, sad career which must await her in case of the worst; sympathy with the mother; and the really dramatic coincidence of the date of the Prince's illness with that of his father, exactly ten years ago—these things once taken into account, we do not want political considerations introduced at all for the present. Our feelings in the matter have been perfectly natural, and just human. They were inevitable.

May the Prince live to know them in their true nature! Loyal though we be, he will find the sincere human truth of the case better than many tons of loyalty. To feel the heart wrung for a stricken brother and his wife, mother, and other relations—let the plain word pass—is much more than to worship the House of Brunswick. Again, we say, may the Prince live to know our hearts! And, in spite of the unfavourable wording of the official bulletins, we cannot help having hope, as we write these words, that he will struggle through.

BREACH OF PROMISE.

ABOUT a month ago an action for breach of promise of marriage was brought in the name of a girl of eighteen or nineteen against a draper's shopman, a youth earning £10 a year when he was earning anything. The courtship had lasted only a few months, and the breaking off of the match was, apparently, a very wise thing. The jury gave the plaintiff £250 damages!

Only a few days ago an action similar in kind was brought against a defendant who was in business for himself as a spice-broker, said to be earning a considerable income. Here the jury awarded the lady £125!

In each case an intelligent and high-minded reader could scarcely form any other opinion than that the state of the law which makes these indecent anomalies possible is a disgrace. And yet there is, we believe, only one Judge on the bench—Mr. Baron Bramwell—who ever says a word to discourage these stupid and shameless proceedings.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

COUNT APPONYI, the late Austro-Hungarian Ambassador at the Court of St. James's, has been appointed Imperial and Royal Ambassador at Paris, in the place of Prince Metternich.

MR. JOHN RUSKIN, M.A., the Slade Professor of Fine Arts at Oxford, will deliver, next Term, a course of lectures on "The Relation of Natural Science to Art."

BISHOP COLENSO has issued a translation in the Caffre tongue of the Books of Samuel.

MR. DISRAELI does not, it is said, intend to visit Glasgow till the Easter recess.

CAPTAIN LORD GILFORD, R.N., has been appointed to succeed Captain Rice, R.N., as Chief of the Steam Reserve at Portsmouth.

THE DEATH is announced of Mrs. Ryves, whose name will be remembered in connection with her claim to have descended from the "Princess Olive of Cumberland." The deceased lady was in the seventy-fifth year of her age.

MR. SHERIFF BENNETT is a candidate for the vacancy in the London School Board, caused through the resignation of the Rev. W. Rogers, one of the members for the district of the City.

THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL has nominated Mr. T. S. Aldis, formerly scholar of Trinity College, Cambridge (Second Wrangler in 1866), to be an inspector of schools.

NOTICE has been given of application to the Dominion Parliament at its next Session for charters for the Northern Railway Company to make a line from Pembina, Dakota, to Lake Winnipeg; and for the Western, from Pembina to Lake Manitoba. Both lines are to connect with the Northern Pacific Railway.

THE DEATH is announced of Sir James Murray, M.D., who has been for many years Inspector of Anatomy for Ireland, and Physician to the Lord Lieutenant. He was born in 1788, and was educated at Edinburgh, and at Trinity College, Dublin. He was knighted in 1833.

THE NONCONFORMIST EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE, which was to have assembled at Manchester this week, has been postponed in consequence of the illness of the Prince of Wales. The Conference will, in all probability, meet in the middle of January.

AN AMERICAN MISSIONARY, sent to Calcutta to convert the Hindoos, has become a disciple of Keshub Chunder Sen, and been formally received into the Brahmo-Somaj Church.

MR. THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, a water-colour painter of good ability, died on Monday, at Whitby. The deceased was a member of the Institute of Water-Colour Painters in London, and frequently had works shown at the Royal Academy Exhibitions. He was a native of Leeds.

A FIRE of considerable magnitude occurred on Monday morning at the British and Foreign School Society's training-schools in the Borough-road. The kitchens, class-rooms, and dormitories are nearly burned out, and other portions of the buildings are much damaged.

THE CANADIAN AUTHORITIES in Manitoba have put upon their trial three French half-breeds who accompanied O'Neil in his expedition, but could not apparently run so fast as that notable leader. One of them has been convicted and sentenced to death.

THE COLLIERIES OF SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE, one of the oldest mining centres in the kingdom, have resolved to take steps to secure the nine hours system of labour for all hands employed at collieries, whether above or below ground.

THOMAS FREARSON, charged with the murder of his brother, by stabbing him with a hayfork, at Derby, on Dec. 2 last, was finally examined, last Saturday, by the Derby magistrates, and committed for trial on the lesser charge of manslaughter.

THE TREASURY RECEIPTS from April 1 to Dec. 9 amounted to £43,989,567, an increase of more than two millions sterling upon the returns for the corresponding period of last year. The payments have amounted to £47,247,430. The balance in the Bank of England on Saturday last exceeded three millions and a half.

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CATTLE MARKET in London was held on Monday. In point of numbers the show was scarcely so strong as on some recent occasions, owing to the continuance in force of the transit restrictions, but the actual weight of meat on sale is stated to have been about an average. In point of excellence the Scots cattle are said to have been the finest. The total number of beasts exhibited was 6320.

A STRIKE has occurred among the Post Office telegraph clerks at Manchester, Liverpool, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Dublin. An association had been formed by the employees for the purpose of obtaining better conditions of pay, &c. Mr. Scudamore suspended the leaders, and large numbers of the operators struck in consequence. The authorities seem likely to get the best in the dispute, however, as the persons on strike at Manchester and Dublin gave in on Tuesday, and were allowed to resume duty on condition of abandoning their connection with the association.

THE WESTMINSTER DISTRICT BOARD OF WORKS has requested the Metropolitan Board to set out the general line of buildings on the Victoria Embankment between Bridge-street and Montagu House, or any other building on the line of the embankment, in view of a building (St. Stephen's Clubhouse), proposed to be erected at the corner of Bridge-street, on the railway company's surplus land.

AT LIVERPOOL, on Saturday morning, the warehouse belonging to Messrs. Jackson, Rolland, and Coltart, ship chandlers, James's-street, was unfortunately set on fire by a boy dropping a piece of lighted paper upon some oakum. The flames spread with inconceivable rapidity. Three men in the upper story, whose escape was cut off, could not be rescued, and were burnt to death.

A MEETING CONVENED BY THE ABORIGINES' PROTECTION SOCIETY was held, on Wednesday, at the rooms of the Social Science Association—the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, M.P., in the chair. Statements were made showing that the pretended immigration of natives from the South Sea Islands to Queensland was the result of kidnapping and a species of slave trade. Resolutions were passed condemning the system and calling upon the Government to take measures for its total suppression.

AN INHABITANT OF CAMBERWELL writes to complain of the frequency with which children are robbed in the southern suburbs of London. His daughter, aged nine, was met in the street, the other day, by a woman who told her there were men who would rob her in the direction in which she was going, and led her under the railway arches under the pretext of protecting her. She took the money the child had in her possession, pretended to put it back into her glove, and left her, telling her not to stir from the arches. There the child was found, shortly afterwards, by a policeman, who restored her to her parents.

THE LOUNGER.

"Born on the north and the south of the metropolis, notwithstanding its enormous growth, the pedestrian, if such a character still lingers in these days of mechanical locomotion, may still find, within a moderate afternoon's walk, all the refreshment of pure air and fine country scenery." Thus spake the *Times* on the 12th inst. in a leader on the transfer of Hampstead-Heath to the Metropolitan Board of Works, and on this your Lounger would say a word or two. Pedestrians still linger in these days of mechanical locomotion. Your Lounger is one of them, and mechanical locomotion, so far from hindering or preventing his country walks, enables him to extend them; indeed, but for mechanical locomotion, he would rarely, if ever, be able to get into said fine country scenery and breathe its pure air. Take the southern side of London, for example. To get at really fine country scenery and pure air you must go beyond Croydon. But Croydon is nine miles from Whitehall. Nine miles there and nine miles back, mainly through lanes of houses, is rather too much. But take the train at Victoria, and in twenty-five minutes you get at the bottom of the chalk hill and have before you a walk—nay, half a dozen walks—which for beauty of scenery and purity of air cannot be excelled. The east, say to Carshalton, is, I think, 1s. 2d. the return ticket, third class. There is, though, another walk in that direction which is a very great favourite of mine—viz., the walk from Leatherhead through Norbury Park down into Dorking Vale. Twice during the autumn,

Escaped
From the vast city, where I long had pined
A discontented sojourner,

have I gone this round, and of the scenery can say this: Grander may be found in North Wales and the Lake district, but nothing more beautiful. The last time I was that way Nature had assumed her gorgeous autumnal dress, and when, turning a little from the main path, I looked down into Dorking Vale, I could not help murmuring, "Earth has not anything to show more fair than this;" and all this—the beautiful scenery, the invigorating walk, the life-giving air—I got for what I should have had to pay for a visit to the Crystal Palace. By-the-way, before I leave this I may as well say that the proprietor of Norbury Park (Mr. Grissell) has closed his park against the general public. He was compelled to do this by the insolence of picnic people, who had become a nuisance. But he willingly allows respectable pedestrians to pass through.

Lecturing under the dome of St. Paul's is still going on. Canon Gregory has finished his series of lectures, and now Canon Liddon, the eloquent preacher who has long been drawing unwonted crowds to St. Paul's, has begun his. The question which Canon Liddon is discussing is this, "Does the Political Future of Christianity threaten its Decline?" An interesting question enough; but to my mind, before it can be answered, we ought to consider another—viz., "What is Christianity?" There is lying before me a book entitled "The Book of the Denominations; or, the Churches and Sects of Christendom in the Nineteenth Century." It is a big book, containing nearly 700 pages; and it describes about sixty churches, sects, &c. Well, each of these churches, sects, &c., believes that it is specially Christian, and several believe that they, and they alone, are Christian. With this fact, then, before us, is it not absolutely necessary that the Canon, before he attempts to solve the question, "Does the political future of Christianity threaten its decline?" ought to solve the preliminary question, "What is Christianity?" The Canon, no doubt, has in his eye the so-called Christianity embodied in the creeds and formularies of the Church of England; and this may be satisfactory to his vast audience under the dome of St. Paul's; but to thousands outside it will not be satisfactory. To them the question will still return, "What is Christianity?" Have I an opinion upon this question? Oh, yes, and a very strong opinion. My answer to this preliminary question is—"Christianity is what Christ taught," and, holding this opinion, I have a ready answer to the Canon's question, and here it is—viz., whilst the political future threatens, not only a decline, but the destruction, of the mere hulls and wrappings of Christianity, Christianity itself—that is, the Christianity which Christ taught—is in no danger whatever; but will, on the contrary, as these hulls and wrappings decay and fall off like rotten clothes, shine out more brightly and strongly, and become as effective, powerful, inspiring a Christianity as it was before these accretions had impaired its strength and dimmed its glory.

The *Times* has it on good authority that Parliament will meet not later than Jan. 23—that is, about a fortnight before the usual time. The *Times*, I believe, is right. The day is, I hear, to be Jan. 23. It has been said that if the Prince of Wales were to die—which Heaven forbid!—Parliament must meet directly. There is no law that it should, nor have I heard from any person in authority that it would do so. My own opinion, though, is that the death of the Prince would hasten the meeting. But I will not think of such a contingency.

In the Houses of Parliament—and by Houses I here mean the chambers in which the two Houses meet—there is literally no change. Our Chief Commissioner spent last year a considerable sum. But this year I hear he has spent nothing except a few pounds in lowering the windows of the smoking-room. These, like all the lower windows of the river front of the palace, were too high. As the members sat on the sofas blowing their clouds and sipping their grog, they could see nothing but the sky, and the pinnacles and chimney-tops of St. Thomas's Hospital across the river. These windows Mr. Ayrton has had lowered sufficiently to enable the members to see the steamers and barges go by. By this change more light, too, will be let in, which is a great improvement, for that smoky room was a miserable dull, dark vault. That, however, is the characteristic of almost all the chambers in the palace. Barry's structure certainly justified the old satire upon Gothic architecture, which says that in Gothic architecture you have windows that shut out the light, for his windows are not only too small and too high, but are so filled in with heavy mullions and tracery that they literally do shut out the light.

Thus much about the building. We are all wondering whether the Prime Minister has thought out any plan to enable the House of Commons to perform its work in a more satisfactory manner. Are the departments to be allowed to pour into the House, as heretofore, their torrent of bills without restraint or control? Or has the Prime Minister put a check upon their mania for legislation? Then, again, does he mean to propose for the adoption of the House any of the recommendations of that Committee which sat last year "to consider the best means of promoting the dispatch of the business of the House"? That Committee recommended seven different expedients. Will he propose the adoption of any of them, and if any, which? As the time of meeting approaches members are anxiously asking, "Is nothing to be done to keep us clear of the distressing muddle which we got into last Session?" The Committee aforesaid recommended that "no fresh opposed business be proceeded with after half-past twelve of the clock ante-meridian." Will the leader of the House propose the adoption of this recommendation, and make it an order of the House? Surely nothing can be more reasonable than such a rule. But if it be adopted the Prime Minister must put a check upon the Government departments, for quite half the department bills last year, opposed or not, were passed through their stages after half past twelve. If I recollect rightly, Mr. Stansfeld's Local Government Board Bill, one of the most important measures of the Session, passed all its stages in the small hours. The truth is, the Government attempts too much; and if it continue to do this, it is sheer nonsense to talk about shortening the sittings. The only way to shorten the sittings is to decrease the work. "But," you may

say, "if laws are necessary they must be passed." Fiddlesticks! It is my opinion, and the opinion of men wiser than I am, that we have more law-making than is good for us. And here I may remark that one reason why the House is so overworked is this:—Because it has so much business to do it does it so badly that a great deal has to be done over again, and thus its work is still further increased. Attempt less and you will do what you do better; employ less time, and nevertheless in the long run do more work. Depend upon it, the cause of all the muddle is simply the attempting to do too much. The Parliamentary machine is clogged; lighten it, and it will do more work, do it better, and in a shorter time.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The theatres are now preparing in earnest for Christmas time, and the regular performances will soon cease for rehearsals. The days preceding the holiday season are well known as unusually dull, for the public is supposed to be saving up for the winter pantomimes and burlesques. DRURY LANE closes this week, after an autumn season of success unparalleled. It is said that "Rebecca" has made more money in her time than the most successful week of the most flourishing pantomime. Mr. Chatterton amasses a great property; and Mr. Halliday, according to all accounts, by means of Victor Hugo's novel of "Notre Dame de Paris" and Sir Walter Scott's "Ivanhoe," has earned an income which was never attained by Mr. Grote or Dean Milman, by Hallam or Macaulay. Lucky those who have, not the capacity—for anyone has that—but the industry to adapt steadily, and obtain a market for the adaptation. English dramatic authors may complain as they like, but there is certainly no branch of literature which is so extravagantly paid. Mr. Chatterton's energy and liberality deserve a fitting recompense, for he invests capital to a considerable amount, and runs heavy risks. It is to be hoped that the on-coming pantomime will be equally remunerative. The subject is "Tom Thumb the Great; or, Harlequin King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table," and the author is, of course, Mr. E. L. Blanchard, a writer absolutely unequalled in pretty fancy and quaint conceits, the loved one of children, and a master at his craft. Instead of going back, each year he improves; and he has never written a line which is smirched with vulgarity or given birth to an utterance which could possibly offend. There is no pantomime like that at Old Drury; for this very good reason, that no one understands the art of wholesome amusement so thoroughly as this incomparable writer. He calls to his counsel the practical and clever Mr. Cormack, the musical Mr. Levey, and the fanciful Mr. Beverley; and when to these are added this year Master Menley (the phenomenon who will play Tom Thumb) and the indefatigable Vokes family, the prospects at Drury Lane look uncommonly bright.

The Covent Garden pantomime is invariably gorgeous and unquestionably heavy. Not all the king's horses nor all the king's men, nor the comicality of the Paynes nor the help of a lively company, can ever make a pantomime go smartly on this desert of a stage. Mr. Augustus Harris and Mr. H. J. Byron will together do their best for "Blue Beard," and we are promised a gorgeous Amazonian army. We shall get spectacle, but we certainly shall not meet with fun.

The next best pantomime on this side of the water will be that at the PRINCESS'S, written by the accomplished Brothers Grimm. It is to be called "Little Dicky Diver and the Stick of Silver; or, Harlequin and the Three Comical Kings." With Mr. F. Lloyd to arrange the spectacle and Miss Caroline Parkes to show her activity, the prospect in Oxford-street looks decidedly promising. And it will be a strong bill, with the new pantomime and Mr. Watts Phillips's drama, called "On the Jury," which has characters both for Mr. Webster and Mr. Phelps.

The pantomimes at the SURREY and GRECIAN will be, as usual, on a superb scale.

The ADELPHI will lead the way for the burlesques with a something—whether burlesque or extravaganza I do not know, but it matters very little—by Mr. Charles Millward, called "Little Snowdrop." Mrs. John Wood, Mrs. Mellon, and Mr. Calhoun are a powerful trio, and the entertainment ought most certainly to be good.

Mr. Burnand sends the story of Arion, the gentleman who tamed the dolphins with his music, to the STRAND; and a classical burlesque will be revived at the HAYMARKET. But I question if any of the Christmas entertainments in point of fun will come up to Mr. Gilbert's "Thespis," at the Gaiety. The notion, as I have heard it, is extremely funny. Mr. J. L. Too's as Thespis the showman, who comes up to Olympus with his travelling company and takes the place of the Olympians, will be immense; and I expect great things from Mr. Arthur Sullivan's music. If I mistake not, this will be the Christmas piece of the year.

At the COURT will be produced another version of "Nicholas Nickleby;" and I regret to say that Mr. John Clayton leaves this theatre, to which he has been such a conspicuous ornament, and the management which he has served so faithfully. It would appear that Miss Litton can find no more for this promising and conscientious artist to do than to "make up" and wear clever wigs. So, weary at a round of characters totally unworthy of him, he sensibly leaves a theatre where his place can be ill supplied. Mr. Clayton will be caught up eagerly; but I scarcely think the Court, in spite of the success of a silly burlesque, can afford to put an artist on one side for the sake of the newest thing in limbo.

The benefit of Miss Neilson at DRURY LANE is always an important theatrical event. It will take place on Monday, and the popular actress will play Rosalind in "As You Like It," and Pauline in "The Lady of Lyons." Mr. Henry Neville is to be the Claude Melnotte; and Drury is sure to be crowded.

The brilliant success of Mr. W. S. Gilbert's "Pygmalion and Galatea," at the HAYMARKET (a charming comedy, produced with great completeness and very satisfactorily acted), and the production of two slight farces at the VAUDEVILLE and the STRAND have been the principal events of the week. M. Ravel is still at the ST. JAMES'S, and attracting very good houses.

The Christmas novelty at the ROYAL GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION is by J. R. Planché, and will be entitled "King Christmas; a Fancy-Full Morality." Mr. Corney Grain will bring out a new musical sketch on Boxing Day, and the entertainment will conclude with "A Peculiar Family" in a compressed form.

THE ALLIANCE DRAMATIC CLUB.

The St. George's Theatre, where the Rev. Charles Voysey periodically promulgates his peculiar opinions, was tenanted, on Monday evening, by the members of the Alliance Dramatic Club, who gave a representation of "A Bachelor of Arts" and "Don Cesar de Bazan." "A Bachelor of Arts," by Mr. "Pelham Hardwicke," is an excellent little drama, and it seems a great pity to spoil it. The allied amateurs spoiled it most completely. The first act dragged dreadfully, and was dull and depressing in the extreme, while the final act was converted into a broad farce. The only respectable bit of acting in the piece was Mr. Weaver's Dolly, a very successful assumption. Mr. J. G. Nobbs should not have undertaken to play Harry Jasper. The part is quite out of his line. Harry Jasper is a rattling Charles Mathews part; as rendered by Mr. Nobbs he was a drawing swell. The wig that Mr. Doon wore as Andrew Wylie was quite a curiosity in its way. Mr. Wickens, the perruquier, is evidently a wag. "Don Cesar de Bazan" was very well played. It has often surprised me that silly melodramas and pieces of the "Don Cesar" class are so seldom represented at amateur entertainments. In modern comedies and domestic dramas the performers endeavour to be natural, and more frequently than not, fail miserably. In the majority of melodramas they can be as unnatural as they like; and I generally notice that they take full advantage of the privilege. Mr. A. Westbrook, a very clever gentleman, was a capital Don Cesar, Mr. Weaver a satisfactory Lazarillo, and Mr. S. Wright an imposing Don José—too imposing, in my opinion. Mr. T. C.

Seary's make up as the Marquis de Rotondo was particularly effective. The amateurs have reason to thank Miss Lizzie Dudley for the great assistance she rendered them as Maritana. During the "waits" the band of the 3rd Middlesex Artillery performed a selection of not very brilliant music.

THE BIRKBECK DRAMATIC CLUB.

Of the dramatic entertainment given at the Birkbeck Institution, on the 8th inst., I am able to speak most favourably. I think I shall not go beyond the truth when I say that it was the best non-professional performance of legitimate comedy I ever witnessed; and though I have had the misfortune to be present at many deplorably bad representations, I have also seen several very creditable ones. More frequently than not, I am compelled to speak of amateur actors in terms which can scarcely be considered complimentary; but when I can conscientiously pat them on the back it pleases me to do so. John Tobin's comedy, "The Honeymoon," I had never previously seen played by amateurs, and I was quite surprised to see them go through with it so well. Mr. A. W. Pinaro's rendering of Signor Balthazar, though overrated, was of considerable merit. I regard Mr. Pinaro as one of the most promising members of the company. Mr. A. Gilliam was rough and rugged as the misgaming Captain Rolando, and Mr. H. Parry made an excellent Duke Aranza—probably the best thing that gentleman has yet done; unquestionably, Mr. Parry is improving. Mr. E. Brown, as Jacques, was grotesquely made up. Of the other gentlemen who assisted in the performance I need only say that they played their parts well. The daughters of Balthazar were sustained by three very clever ladies. Miss Nicholl's Zorana was a pretty performance; but the lady's elocution, if I may be allowed the expression, was too elaborate. Miss Mills was sufficiently shrewish as Juliana; and Miss K. Lewis was a volatile Volante. The comedy, which, for the convenience of the furniture (not scene) shifters, was curtailed off into six acts, was very showily, if not correctly, dressed. Mr. William Brough's farce, "A Comical Countess," which preceded "The Honeymoon," was fairly played by Mr. Douglas, Mr. Petherick, and Mrs. Douglas, and excellently by Mr. Pinaro. With Mr. Pinaro's dress I have no fault to find, and his exhibition of decrepitude was satisfactory; but when one looked at Mr. Pinaro's face and immediately noticed how very youthful it was, it detracted somewhat from the effect of the impersonation. Mr. Pinaro might with advantage devote a little more attention to the art of facial make-up. "More Blunders Than One" I did not stay to see, as I consider that amateur entertainments—and professional ones too, for that matter—should be over at, or soon after, eleven.

THE ECLIPSE OF THE SUN.

THE first fruits of the eclipse expeditions promise to be most satisfactory. All who have followed the progress of recent researches into the subject of the solar corona have recognised the fact that the one thing now useful is a series of good photographs of this object. Mr. Brothers had obtained one good picture; but one picture was not sufficient. He had had only the last eleven seconds of totality to work in—or, rather, his work during the preceding two minutes was almost useless, owing to clouds—and what was wanted above all things is a series of pictures taken during the whole progress of totality. Until we have such a series it is difficult, if not impossible, to determine precisely what effect is due to the real solar corona, and what effect to the atmospheric illumination undoubtedly existing even when the eclipse is most complete. Now we have from two sources the most promising accounts of photographic success. Mr. Pogson (the Government astronomer at Madras), stationed during the eclipse at Avenashy, telegraphs to the Astronomer Royal that the weather was fine and the telescopic and camera photographs successful. Colonel Tennant, who was in charge of the Indian eclipse expedition, stationed at Ootacamund, on the Neigherries, informs Dr. Huggins that six good photographs have been obtained. Nothing could be more satisfactory, so far as the photographic work of these two observing parties is concerned.

But we have further information of extreme importance. In the first place, Mr. Pogson tells us that good sketches have been taken, and that the polariscope work was successful. His statement that many bright lines were seen in the spectrum will doubtless be found, when interpreted, to be equally satisfactory. At present it is in so far incomplete that it does not inform us in what spectrum the bright lines were seen. We know already that the spectrum of the red prominences shows several bright lines; and we also know that the corona has a spectrum showing one or more bright lines. If the spectroscopists of Mr. Pogson's party have been able to prove that the true coronal spectrum contains many bright lines, they have achieved a very noteworthy, and, it may be added, a very unexpected success. But it would be premature to discuss a statement which, as it stands, is undoubtedly meaningless. Turning to Colonel Tennant's telegram, we find the most important of all the announcements, excepting only (and, perhaps, scarcely excepting) those relating to the photographs. He tells us that "the reversion of lines is entirely confirmed," and Dr. Huggins explains that this statement refers to an important observation by Professor Young in Spain last December, who saw at the moment of the total obscuration all the dark Fraunhofer lines "reversed"—that is, bright on a dark ground. Perhaps some further explanation may not be deemed undesirable. The coloured prominences seen round the sun during total eclipse show by the bright lines in their spectrum that they consist of glowing vapour, hydrogen being one of their chief constituents. At a lower range—that is, closer to the sun—the coloured sierra or chromosphere exhibits the same bright lines, and occasionally others—in fact, Professor Young has counted as many as 120 lines, showing the presence of several other vapours. Now Father Secchi, of Rome, had found reason for believing that still closer to the sun there is a yet more complex atmosphere, containing not only glowing hydrogen, but the glowing vapours of all the metallic and other elements whose presence in the sun is indicated by the innumerable dark lines of the solar spectrum. But the difficulty was to prove this; for the evidence adduced by Secchi, though strong, was not quite convincing; and, indeed, his theory was stoutly contested by Mr. Lockyer. The complex atmosphere was admittedly very shallow—perhaps little more than two or three hundred miles deep: a mere nothing at the sun's enormous distance; and the glare of the sun's orb was quite sufficient to obliterate all traces of this atmospheric shell. Now, Professor Young, taking advantage of the fact that when the moon has just covered the sun the shallow atmosphere is disclosed for a few moments without this glare, obtained, last December, a view of its most beautiful spectrum—a series of innumerable bright lines arranged like cross threads on a ribbon, and ranging through all the colours of the rainbow, from deep red at one extremity of the ribbon to darkest violet at the other. Nor was the charming hieroglyph difficult to interpret. It meant nothing less than this—that the true solar atmosphere had at length been discovered. Above the glowing surface of the sun lies an amazingly complex atmosphere, in which the oxygen and nitrogen of our own air are replaced by the vapours of iron, copper, and other familiar elements, these vapours glowing with the intensity of the sun's heat. It is this remarkable discovery which Colonel Tennant has been able to confirm. The mere confirmation, indeed, of another person's results may seem unimportant; but in this instance, apart from the fact that a factitious importance has been given to such confirmation by the doubts with which Professor Young's observation had been received, the great interest of the discovery makes any fresh light which may be thrown upon it extremely valuable.—*Daily News*.

REAR-ADMIRAL SIR WILLIAM MENDS, K.C.B., will leave England this week for Bombay to reorganise the steam navy of the India Council.



M. ALEXANDER DUMAS.

HAD we been writing of the versatile, industrious, and irrepressible author of "Monte Cristo" and the "Three Musketeers," we should have headed this notice without the prefix "Monsieur." There can never be another Alexandre Dumas. The inventor of the "Dame aux Camélias," now that he cannot (alas!) be called Dumas *fil* must be Monsieur Alexandre Dumas; and, putting together the work by which he gained his first—shall we say renown or notoriety?—and the last piece of fine writing in which, as a moralist, he declaims in favour of purity of sentiment and of virtue, he is, perhaps, as representative a Monsieur as it would now be easy to find of the strange, contradictory, mercurial, unreal temperament which characterises modern Paris. At the same time that his rhetorical powers were displayed on behalf of the restoration of simplicity, purity, and virtue as the only hope for the redemption of France, a new drama of his, conspicuous for all that we have unhappily learnt to associate with modern French theatrical performances, was attracting the blushless in crowds and horrifying the blameless in sixes and sevens every evening. These remarks on the peculiar rôle taken by M. Dumas are not intended to depreciate his claims as a man of genius. From the very first publication of the volume which

made its sensation in the vicious-sentimental society of Paris so many years ago, to his last experiment as a high moral censor, he has refined what he touched. Therein lay the danger of his works. Vice, in other hands obviously impure, perhaps even so real as to become odious, grew, if not attractive, at least so picturesque in its sorrowful pathos as to seem almost a desirable method of arriving at such a pitch of tender sensibility. False to any but a false standard of art, the work failed to show the deadening effects of a vicious life, even though it was to end in death. His vice, instead of being vulgar, sensual, devilish, has about it a halo of pink satin under the softened light of a boudoir lamp and an odour of musk-rose perfume. The genius of the artist is displayed, not in showing the truth, but in the skill by which knack and adroit finish may conceal what the many, who will not be much hurt by the picture, are desirous of concealing, and the few who might be injured have no experience of, and so are too ready to take upon trust. It is now nearly twenty years since the "Dame aux Camélias" moved society in Parisian salons to tears, and English matrons first took their daughters to see the musical version of it in the opera of "Traviata." We do not intend to revive the controversy that

ensued; it is sufficient to note that M. Alexandre Dumas is still a forward representative of French literature, and that, though it has been rumoured that he expressed regret at the publication of his early work, it will certainly bear even favourable comparison with some performances of a later date—notably, perhaps, with some dramatic compositions which have been abandoned even by the most eager of English adapters who have an order for a new comedy-drama on hand. Of course, there are people who defend such a performance as "The Demi-Monde" and "La Visite de Nocces" on the ground that it affords a picture of the demoralised and degrading society of the period just past—the period henceforth to be designated as that of the Second Empire; but there are phases of society the pollutions of which are best buried out of sight, especially when they have infected a whole city and had begun to spread contagion. With singular natural advantages, great accomplishments, a sparkling wit and considerable power, M. Alexandre Dumas has had a brilliant career, and his versatility is so great—nay, his admiration of virtue so sincere—that he may still be the representative Parisian even when Paris has cast the vicious slough that has so long disfigured and enfeebled the gayest capital of Europe.

THE LATE LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR J. YORKE SCARLETT, G.C.B.

SIR JAMES YORKE SCARLETT, whose death we announced last week, was the second son of Sir James Scarlett, Chief Baron of Exchequer, who was, in 1835, created Baron Abinger, by his first wife, Louisa Henrietta, second daughter of Mr. Peter Campbell, of Kilmory, in the county of Argyle, and was born Feb. 1, 1799; therefore he died in his seventy-third year. He married, Dec. 19, 1835, Charlotte Anne, second daughter and coheir of the late Colonel Hargreaves, of Bank Hall, Burnley, Lancashire. He was educated at Eton, and afterwards entered Trinity College, Cambridge, but left that university in his nineteenth year to adopt the Army as his future profession. His first commission was in the 18th Hussars, which corps he joined at Maidstone, in 1818, on the return of the regiment from Cambray. He remained in the regiment until it was disbanded, and then went on half pay of the 9th Lancers, exchanged into the 6th Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers), in December, 1822, and remained with that regiment till June, 1830, when he obtained a half-pay majority. With the determination of thoroughly studying the higher branches of mathematics and fortification, he availed himself of the opportunity to complete his military studies at Sandhurst. After six months' arduous study he offered himself for examination at the Military College, and obtained the much-coveted certificate of proficiency. In November, 1830, he exchanged into the 5th Dragoon Guards, which gallant regiment he continued to command to the day he was appointed Brigadier-General in Turkey. Under Colonel Scarlett the regiment attained a high reputation for discipline and efficiency, and was considered second to none in the cavalry. At the general election in 1837 Sir James, then Major Scarlett, was returned to the House of Commons, in conjunction with the late Mr. Charles Baring Wall, for Guildford, and was put in nomination at the general election in 1841, but was third on the poll, his former colleague and Mr. Ross Donnelly Mangles being the successful candidates. He was a Conservative in politics; but, after his experience in Parliament, expressed his determination to abandon politics and stick to a service of which he was proud and a very useful member. He was ordered to accompany the army to the East, and left Ireland with his regiment, and was selected by the Commander-in-Chief at head-quarters to command the heavy cavalry division. On reaching Turkey his regiment was



THE LATE SIR JAMES YORKE SCARLETT, G.C.B.

stationed at Deveno, and he there had the mortification of losing several officers and many of his men by pestilence, and to such an extent that he had to incorporate with his own regiment the 4th (Royal Irish) Dragoons, under Colonel Hodge. The heavy cavalry brigade did not accompany the expedition to Eupatoria, consequently he was not at the battle of the Alma. At the battle of Balaklava Sir James had the opportunity of showing his qualities as a military officer. The splendid charge of the heavy cavalry at Balaklava, sustaining such trifling loss, and the equally brilliant covering of the return of the light brigade, exposed to the hottest fire of the enemy—where Sir James lost many more men and horses than fell in his previous charge, which took place under the eyes of Lord Raglan—established Scarlett's reputation as a brave and able cavalry officer. He was wounded at Balaklava by a sabre-cut on the bridge hand in the charge, and afterwards received a contusion on the right hand from a spent ball. He was promoted to Major-General in December following. He was afterwards at the battle of Tchernaya. In July, 1855, Sir James succeeded General the Earl of Lucan in command of the cavalry division. The late Sir James was, in July, 1855, nominated a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath for his services, and also granted a "reward for distinguished services." He also received a medal with three clasps for the battles of Balaklava, Inkerman, and Tchernaya, and the siege and fall of Sebastopol; received from the Emperor of the French the decoration of Commander of the Legion of Honour; the Order of the Médjidié of the Second Class, and the Sardinian and Turkish war medals. In 1869, in further recognition of his services, he was created a Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath. On his return home he commanded the cavalry brigade at Aldershot, and in August, 1867, was appointed to the command of the south-western district. In 1860 he was appointed Adjutant-General at head-quarters, in the place of the late General Sir George Wetherall, which appointment he filled for the usual period, five years. After leaving the Horse Guards, in October, 1865, he was appointed to command the division at Aldershot. He was appointed Colonel of the 5th Dragoon Guards in August, 1860. His commissions bore date as follow:—Cornet, March 26, 1818; Lieutenant, Oct. 24, 1821; Captain, June 9, 1825; Major, June 11, 1830; Lieutenant-Colonel, July 3, 1840; Colonel, Nov. 11, 1851; Major-General, Dec. 12, 1854; and Lieutenant-



ROMAN PRIZE PICTURE: OEDIPUS BIDDING FAREWELL TO THE DEAD BODIES OF HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN.—(BY EDOUARD TOUDOUZE.)

General, Nov. 9, 1862. The deceased General was honorary Colonel of the 40th Middlesex Rifle Volunteers, as well as of the 3rd Lancashire.

The remains of General Scarlett were interred, on Monday, at Holmes Chapel Church, Burnley. The body was conveyed on a gun-carriage drawn by six horses. The escort was composed of the 7th Lancashire Rifle Volunteers, the 5th Royal Lancashire Militia, and a number of the artillery. The Corporation and magistrates were also present. The funeral was intended to be private, but seventy carriages were in the procession.

THE FRENCH FINE-ART ACADEMY AT ROME.

In the midst of the echoes of a scarcely-concluded war we hear of the undying efforts of professors of the peaceful arts, and already the fine-art exhibitions are attracting attention in Paris, where the studios have been reopened, and the students have gone to work as though they desired to obliterate the terrible impressions of the past twelve months. The works of the French school in Rome which have been sent to Paris for exhibition of course attract the greatest attention, and we are able to publish an engraving of the picture which has taken the grand prize. This painting, the work of M. Toudouze, represents the departure of Oedipus from Thebes, where he bids farewell to the bodies of his wife, Jocasta, and his two sons, Eteocles and Polyneices; and critics—or, at all events, French critics—declare it to be admirable as a great classical picture, grand in design and tender in execution; while the pathetic suggestiveness of the scene does not deteriorate the general firmness and vigour of the composition. The other principal works are an incomplete picture by M. Vimont; a sculpture in bas-relief of the scourging of Christ, by M. Marqueste; and an architectural design by M. Ulmann.

EDUCATIONAL TEST.—Mr. Redgrave, inspector of factories, states in his report recently issued that he has learnt that for the last thirteen years it has been a rule at the large flax thread works of Messrs. Knox, at Kilburne, in Ayrshire, not to employ any young person who cannot read intelligibly a passage in the New Testament. One of the principal schoolmasters at Kilburne informs Mr. Redgrave that he has known of many instances in which children would have been removed from his school earlier but for the fear entertained by their parents that they would not obtain employment at the factory, the only one in the place.

SEARCH FOR DR. LIVINGSTONE.—At the meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, on Monday, Sir Henry Rawlinson stated that the council intended to address the Foreign Office, with a view of arranging, either directly from the Foreign Office or through co-operation between the Foreign Office and the society, some means of communicating with Dr. Livingstone, either by sending messengers into the interior of Africa, and offering a reward of 1000s. to any African who will bring back a letter in Dr. Livingstone's handwriting to the coast, or by organising a direct expedition, headed by some experienced and well-qualified European, who should himself penetrate to the point where Dr. Livingstone is supposed to be. Mr. Rassam said his experience in Abyssinia convinced him that the best plan would be to send native messengers; but Captain Rigby, who for many years officially resided at Zanzibar, said it would be impossible to get a messenger into the interior and back. He thought the only means of communicating with the great traveller was by a small armed expedition under an experienced European. The president said that the council, feeling that the loss of 500s. or 1000s. would be nothing compared with the object to be gained, had thought it desirable that the plan of messengers should be tried first, and, if it failed, that the more serious expedition might be resorted to.

THE NEW HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN.—Mr. Walter, M.P., who has recently been nominated a vice-president of this institution and given the handsome donation of £500 to the building fund, has kindly acceded to the request of the committee to preside at the annual dinner in February next. Since the establishment of the hospital, in 1851, more than 10,000 little patients have been under treatment in the wards, and upwards of 200,000 children have been prescribed for as out-patients. The hospital was opened with ten beds only; it has now seventy-five, and also fifty-two at the convalescent branch, Cromwell House, Highgate. The new hospital (49, Great Ormond-street) will provide for the reception of about 200 in-patients, with very extensive and complete accommodation for out-patients, that department of the hospital having been found to confer great benefit on the poor not only of the immediate locality, but of more distant parishes. It is proposed to proceed at once with the central portion of the hospital on the ground at the rear of the houses now in use. The proposed arrangement will be found most complete in every department, and will include all modern appliances for warmth, ventilation, and medical study; and it is believed that this, the parent of many children's hospitals, may in every sense be pronounced a model hospital. Much, however, necessarily depends on the raising of the requisite funds.

THE COLOSSEUM, REGENT'S PARK.—The Colosseum, which has been standing and falling to decay for so many years, has at last found a use—to supply an institution which is much required in England generally, but more especially in London, and that is a complete suite of baths of all kinds. The building will provide ample accommodation for most sumptuous Turkish baths, immense swimming-baths of sea and fresh water, and suites of most elegant and commodious private and medicated baths of every description. The surplus space of the plot of land—for the Colosseum buildings extend over two acres, stretching from Albany-street to Regent's Park—will be laid out as a winter garden, and the block of buildings facing Albany-street will be partly rebuilt and converted into club chambers. This will be the work of a company called the Colosseum Spa Company (Limited), and will be one of the grandest schemes in London. The character of the buildings will be Moorish, and the cooling-room of the Turkish bath, which will be under the celebrated dome, will be one of the most magnificent in the world. The exterior will be very fanciful in character: the alterations to the existing buildings, and the effect of the handsome mosques and kiosks in the winter gardens, will greatly add to the general effect. The plans have been designed and prepared by Mr. Walter Emden, architect, of 8, Adam-street, Strand, W.C., who has built some of our latest theatres.—*Architect.*

NEXT YEAR'S ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.—Mr. Millais, R.A., will have another landscape for exhibition, nearly the site of the one in this year's Academy, "Chill October"—the subject being a river, with some willows in the foreground, and autumn trees, with their various tints of richly-coloured foliage in the background. This picture is a landscape simply, but in another and a larger work the painter has endeavored to combine landscape with figures. This is always an extremely difficult thing to do, but it is an attempt of which Mr. Millais's powers are worthy. The subject of the landscape is taken from the Tay. There is a part of a cottage seen in the foreground, and against it is seated a girl speaking to a Highland soldier, who is bending over her, and is evidently about to be ferried across the river, for in the mid-distance is a man with a boat. A soldier companion sits waiting for him on one side of the picture. Mr. Millais has besides, we understand, on his easel a portrait of Lord Westminster, at present only just begun, but intended for exhibition at next year's Academy. Mr. Childers, R.A., has another of those charming portrait-pictures with which he delighted us this year. It is already far advanced towards completion. This is the way in which portraits should be treated to make them interesting both to the possessors and the public, and valuable as family heirlooms. Mr. George Leslie, A.R.A., has returned to his beloved Thames, and gives us a beautiful bit of that river freely treated, so as to compose into a picture. His feeling for landscape is peculiar to himself, and unrivalled in sweetness of tone and delicacy of colour; but this work is not entirely a landscape—in the foreground a young lady in a riding-dress is looking across the stream to a ferry boat, in which is her lover, with two riding-horses, a boatman, and a dog, who, recognising his mistress, longs to jump in and swim to her. It is evidently a case of a runaway match, and the fading daylight and autumn mists are in keeping with the subject. Mr. Prinsep has in hand a picture, the subject of which is two girls in a garden of azaleas, one of them handing to the other a bunch of flowers she has just gathered. We hear upon good authority that the approaching old masters' exhibition at the Academy will be quite equal to the two preceding ones, many valuable pictures having already been promised. The Queen has lent twelve from the Royal collections. One, a Holbein, just returned from the Dresden Exhibition; a most beautiful Vandyke and a Zoffany, interesting as being a portrait-picture of the first members of the Royal Academy. Sir Richard Wallace has allowed a selection to be made from his valuable collection; and other owners of fine pictures, Mr. Thomas Baring, the Duke of Buccleuch, &c., have not been less obliging. This is good news, and it appears to us that the general public will welcome the third exhibition, and be even more ready to appreciate it than it was the first of the series. The Holbeins, lent by the Queen for the Dresden Exhibition, were safely returned about a fortnight since, and are now again in their places at Hampton Court and Windsor. It has been asserted that Lady Burdett-Coutts possesses the predella by Raphael belonging to the altarpiece by that master now on loan at the National Gallery. If the Academy authorities could obtain the loan of this picture for their forthcoming exhibition the two works might be compared, and the truth of the suggestion ascertained. It would, at any rate, be a most interesting investigation for painters and art-dilettanti.—*Architect.*

ROSSEL'S EXPERIENCE OF THE COMMUNE.

THE posthumous papers of Rossel, collected and annotated by M. Jules Amigues, have just been published in Paris. They comprise an account of the capitulation of Metz, an interview with Marshal Bazaine and General Changarnier, the Tours Government, the camp of Nevers, the Commune; with sketches of Cluseret, Pyat, and Delescluze, and other subjects.

The book may be divided into two parts—the first describing Rossel's rôle under the Commune and criticising its leading characters, the second treating of the active part he took in the Franco-German War, and containing a number of notes and thoughts on subjects of actual interest. His experiences under the Commune are of the highest interest, both on account of his great powers of observation and of the commanding position he held in the Revolutionary Government. After quoting the famous letter to the Minister of War, in which he resigned his functions in the regular army, he writes:—

"On March 19 a despatch of M. Thiers, placarded officially at Nevers, announced the evacuation of Paris by the Government and by 40,000 men in good condition. Even if I had not felt inclined to join the revolution, this last incident would have drawn me into the insurrection. The army was not sufficiently put to shame in the war; it was necessary that 40,000 men should abandon Paris without waiting to be engaged, without one day's struggle, before an enemy as contemptible as an insurrection always is, and after having even had the advantage of taking the offensive—which is the only really favourable chance which an insurrection possesses. . . . I left Nevers at night, and reached Paris on the morning of March 20. On the first placard which I read I saw the names of Lullier and Assi. This was my first distaste and my first disappointment. I inquired where the Government was sitting, and went to the Hôtel de Ville to write down my name and apply for service. On March 22 I was introduced by some friends to the Committee of the 17th Arrondissement, and on the same day I was named by the Central Committee and elected by the Committee of the 17th Arrondissement commander of the 17th Legion. . . . On April 1, as nearly as I can remember, I was called on, with the other commanders of legions, to assist at a council of war held at the General Staff Office of the Place Vendôme; it is probably there that was planned and resolved the march on Versailles, which cost Flourens his life. I remained there about two hours, and, perceiving that serious discussion was impossible, I went away, after having received the authorisation to put into execution the attack I had planned against Courbevoie. This attempt resulted in the most complete failure, perhaps owing to defects in the plan itself, but specially on account of the inferior quality of the troops and officers. I left with seven battalions, amounting in all to about 2000 men, divided into three groups, under the orders of Malon, member of the Commune; of my sub-commander of legion; and of Gérardin, member of the Commune. Two at least of the battalions were completely drunk, the others complained of not having had enough to eat. The head of the column which I conducted followed me in good order, but the other battalions, whose officers had no authority, were not long before they sat down on the roadside, quarrelling and complaining. There were two or three panics, and finally the most perfect disorder. The officers altogether neglected their duty. Malon and Gérardin exposed themselves; I did everything that was possible to obtain something, till at last, perceiving the impossibility of leading these people against the enemy, we determined to bring them back into town. But, as it had been impossible to make them go forward, so it was even more troublesome to persuade them to return. It was a cruel night for me, and I thought it would cure me for ever from engaging in similar affairs with similar soldiers. I had been followed all night, and without my being aware of it, by some of those jealous Republicans who look upon it as their first duty to exercise a searching control over the deeds and demeanour of persons in office. This control was absolutely favourable to me, and the opinion which they formed of my character, coming in support of the opinions of Malon and Gérardin, was the cause of my being called to the Ministry of War. I had a narrow escape of being shot on the bridge of Asnières by my own National Guards. In returning to the Mairie my first pre-occupation was to impose an iron discipline on the legion, and to examine the officers in order to exclude those who were incapable of commanding; but the very first step I took in this way alarmed the susceptibilities of the Committee of Arrondissement, who placed me under arrest, and three delegates conducted me to the Préfecture, where my name was duly entered in the gaol book. This was on April 2, at about seven o'clock in the morning."

At eleven o'clock the same morning Rossel was released by the order of Cluseret, who had just surrendered to the triumvirate of Eudes, Bergeret, and Duval, as Minister of War. Cluseret entrusted Rossel to become Chief of the Staff.

"The Ministry of War (continues Rossel) was composed at first of Cluseret and myself, with two or three idlers who were there as Cluseret's attendants. I managed to constitute some of the most indispensable officers by enrolling the few intelligent men who came to offer their services; and I specially devoted my attention to the organisation of legions. We were immediately obliged to eliminate Bergeret, who was in command of Paris, and wanted to command everywhere. Cluseret had to place him under arrest, and to put Dombrowski in his stead. This last nomination was supported by me, and strongly advocated by Félix Pyat. It was then agreed that Dombrowski should take the direction of the movement of troops and military operations, whilst we organised the legions and ordered the administration. Many things were opposed to the realisation of this idea. In the first place, Dombrowski took up his quarters at Neuilly, and paid no attention to the left bank; in the second place, Cluseret proved himself immeasurably below his task in point of activity, of initiative power, and aptitude for organisation. The dispositions which he made were badly combined; he did not indicate the means by which they were to be carried out; and, above all, he did not hold on to an idea when he had once adopted it; his variations and uncertainties were constantly the cause of misunderstandings. The complication of government wheels soon became extreme. There was a Commission specially charged to control Cluseret, in which Delescluze and Félix Pyat were the most active members. This Commission 'bothered' Cluseret. It transmitted frivolous advice or ridiculous questions by telegraph to the Ministry; it expressly recommended to us insignificant inventors or drunken delegates. The Commission itself often came over to the Ministry, and tried to look very busy as it went in and out of Cluseret's cabinet."

Next comes a part of Rossel's career which created a great sensation at the time, and which afterwards formed one of the most serious counts against him in his *acte d'accusation*. He tells us that, at Cluseret's pressing request, the Commune instituted a court-martial, to be presided over by him (Rossel). This jurisdiction was considered to be necessitated by the fact that the most unbridled acts of undisciplined and rebellion were daily committed with impunity. Speaking of himself as president of the court-martial, Rossel writes:—

"In accepting the functions of president of this court I made the greatest sacrifice I was capable of to the cause of the revolution. Hating revolution, circumstances alone had thrown me into a revolution; abominating civil war, I had pledged myself to civil war. It was necessary now to preside over a revolutionary tribunal—a tribunal which passed but one sentence—that of death. If I have to defend myself from the charge of ambition, the very fact of my having accepted this painful duty is, perhaps, the strongest argument I can use in refutation. What interest can an ambitious man have in soiling his hands? I should have been very foolish or very uneducated if I had allowed my ambition to stain my name with blood in the discharge of subordinate functions. There is but one reasonable explanation of my conduct: it is that I was sacrificing myself to the revolution. I had not chosen any

of the functions which had been successively intrusted to me; I had not refused any one of them. In critical moments of this nature a man should have the devotion of a secretary. I accepted, therefore, the presidency of a tribunal which, in my opinion, ought not to pass any other sentence than that of death, and I occupied myself only with discharging my functions in the most efficacious manner for the service of the revolution. . . . All the accused were Federates prosecuted for crimes or military offences. The Court judged neither political cases nor cases of common law. The second day a chief of battalion, found guilty of having refused to march against the enemy, was condemned to death. The Executive Commission commuted the penalty, at the request of the advocate, to imprisonment for the duration of the war. The decision of the Executive Commission, which commuted this first decree, unnerved the court-martial. . . . The action of this court soon became a source of uneasiness to the Commune. It dreaded this new power, which condemned the guilty, regardless of their political antecedents, more or less demagogic. It so happened that the most uncontested culprits were firm supporters of the righteous cause. The chief whom we had condemned to death was a veteran of the insurrection, and the 105th Battalion, which we had vilified, was the pillar of the Federation in the 7th Arrondissement."

Paris and Urbain, who had been elected into the Commune chiefly by the aid of this battalion, prevailed on the Commune to quash the sentence, on the ground that Rossel's father had commanded the battalion during the German siege—a fact which, they maintained, invalidated the judgment. Rossel had pronounced his sentence on the night of April 22; and, on reading in the *Journal Officiel* of the 26th the decision of the commission, he sent in his resignation as president of the court-martial and chief of Cluseret's staff. Cluseret now began to give way before the multitude of officials who, under the pretence of assisting him, encroached on his power and rendered useless the little energy he still cared to display. Rossel became the centre of intrigue, and on the 29th was called before the Commune, which, after listening to his remarks on the state of the army, signed his nomination as Provisional Delegate to the Ministry of War, and decreed the arrest of Cluseret. While Rossel was endeavouring to diminish the excessive pay allotted to the National Guard, and to organise the forces at his disposal, Mégy abandoned Fort Issy. Rossel immediately appointed "General" Eudes commander of this post of honour; but the latter no sooner got into the battered casemates of the fort than he began to think how he also should get out. By sending alarming despatches to the Commune, to the Committee of Public Safety, &c., he induced Rossel to come and see him with three battalions. The delegate found him hiding in the darkest and least exposed of the casemates, yet complaining of the great danger it incurred. As if the alarm of this gallant General was not sufficiently grotesque, the situation was improved by the appearance of Dombrowski on the scene—Dombrowski, whom Rossel had every reason to believe looking after his duties on the right bank. The astonishment of the two Generals was mutual. Dombrowski, who had always been on the best terms with Rossel, informed him at once that the Committee of Public Safety had just invested him with the command of all the active forces. Next day Gérardin caused this decree to be declared null and void. Such was the internal economy of the Revolution which Marshal M'Mahon had to conquer! The more we learn of its true character the less we can understand how such a divided house was able to stand so long. Rossel briefly recapitulates the different branches which composed this anomalous society:—

"I could not (he writes) derive any support from the Commune, whose resolutions were constantly changing, and which had no taste for business, but exhausted itself in sterile discussions and in quarrels. The Executive Commission, formed of delegates to the different services, had ceased to have any power or will of its own from the moment it had yielded its authority to the Committee of Public Safety. The Commission of War was composed of five members, only three of whom did any work; and even their work was unproductive on account of the little fitness they possessed for governing. In the position which they held it was more a question of making others work than of working themselves. As for the Committee of Public Safety, it was nothing more than a phantom of power. None of these men ever understood the old Revolution; they have never looked beyond the bark of the tree, and have no conception of the labour by which the Revolutionists of 1793 ensured success. The Central Committee of the Federation was incapable of managing anything. Powerful in impeding and disorganising, owing to the affiliation of which it was the centre, it was absolutely powerless to create."

On the 7th of May Rossel visited Issy and Petit Vanves. On this occasion he caused several National Guards to be "executed." We leave him to tell the characteristic details:—

"It was there that several National Guards paid the penalty of abandoning their post before the enemy. The execution was inoffensive, but created a great impression on them. I had the right sleeve of each man in his turn cut off, beginning with the officers. All these men sobbed and wept, whilst the guard who surrounded them were, perhaps, more affected than by a death execution. I should say here that by a singular accident, and by no means owing to my own will, it never happened to me to put a man to death. I pronounced a capital condemnation at the court-martial; but it was commuted without my intervention. Having as great a horror of murder as I have of war, I nevertheless accept all the necessary consequences of the situations in which I find myself. On May 7 I had not sufficient confidence in the efficacy of our defence to enter into a course of repression."

At the conclusion of his narrative, Rossel explains the exact nature of the circumstances which attended his resignation, contemplated arrest, and final flight:—

"On May 8 the chiefs of legion assembled to enter their protest against the formation of regiments. Many of them who were sent to me for this purpose declared that their authority was sufficiently established to enable them to put troops in the field at once, and promised me for the next day twenty-five battalions, of 500 men each, in marching trim. I did not place much dependence on this promise; but, as a success was urgent, if it were only to give time to organise the defence, I determined, if they brought me a few battalions in good condition, to go out with them, and engage the enemy in the open field. I gave orders at the same time for Bergeret's regiment to be present, as I knew it to be better prepared than the others. Bergeret promised, but gave an excuse at the eleventh hour for the absence of three battalions which would not march for want of certain accessories. Several chiefs of legion came in also in the evening to apprise me that they would not be able to provide the troops which they had promised. It was then that I dictated my resignation, copies of which I sent to the most widely-circulated journals. The next moment I learnt that the tricolour was floating over Fort Issy, which had been abandoned on the previous evening by the garrison, and which I in vain attempted to reoccupy. I went afterwards, for conscience sake, to see the troops which the chiefs of legion had assembled, and caused their effective strength to be counted. This effective did not amount to five thousand men, and was composed of wretched troops. The Commune, on the receipt of my letter, sent two deputations, one after the other, to persuade me to withdraw my resignation; on my refusal they ordered the Commission of War to assume the direction of the Delegation of War, and to place me under arrest. At the same time the Central Committee, which was sitting at the Ministry of War, was sending me deputation after deputation to ask me to present myself at their meetings. I was obliged to yield to their pressure, and I gave them the explanations which they required, pointing out to them that I could not be expected to do all the work—to be at once corporal and captain—to run hither and thither after men who were tired of fighting, while all those who ought to have been working were occupied in very unseasonable deliberations. The Central Committee was

On leaving I went and dined with Don's wife, where a messenger from the Central Committee, who informed me that the committee was going to ask the Commune to allow me to return to the Ministry at about ten o'clock, and the visit of all the Commission of War, reinforced by General and Desoluzo. After the dinner, Don's wife, as D. Desoluzo reproached me with having publicly declared the capture of Fort Issy. I answered him, rather than the people ought to be the first to hear news of this. We argued for some time on this point, which was not a grievance the Commune had against me; and the son, which had brought with it a warrant of arrest, went without communicating this warrant to me, and after begged that I would continue to discharge my functions the next day. This I agreed to do only on the condition that I should be allowed to retain one of the members of the Commune to sign all documents. On the following morning the session, very much perplexed at not having carried out its order, sent two of its members to invite me to accompany them to the Hôtel de Ville. After they had breakfasted with me at the Quai de la Seine, without being either free or prisoner. At five o'clock Gérardin joined us, and informed that he had come to constitute himself prisoner with me. The Commune had been uproarious. No reason would be given to, and an act of indictment had been decreed against me. They had even named the court-martial, of which Collet was to be the president. I could not bear the idea of appearing as an accused before this Collet, whom I had seen in abject fear of the Commune, and it was then that I determined to fly from the scene of the Commune. I brought Gérardin away with me in a carriage, which set us down on the Boulevard St. Michel, and thence we went in search of a lodging.

"I feared the Revolution faithfully, blindly, till the day when I perceived that it had been a vanity of the hopes I had founded on this venture. The Commune had no statesmen, no soldiers, and I did not wish to have any. It accumulated ruins on ruins, without having either the power or even the desire of doing anything afresh. Opposed to publicity because it was conscious of its folly, opposed to liberty because it existed in an unstable equilibrium from which the slightest move was bound to make it fall, this oligarchy was the most odious despotism that could be imagined. Possessing only one idea of government, which consisted in keeping the people in its pay, it squandered by its expenditure the savings of the democracy, and ruined the hopes of the latter by causing the people to lose the habit of working. When I saw that this evil was beyond remedy—that every effort, every sacrifice, was barren—my rôle came to an end."

THE STORY OF MARTIN GUERRE.

We need not be told that "there is nothing new under the sun"—not even the Tichborne case. Many of those who day after day wade through six or more columns of the morning papers or a report of the passes of arms between "Mr. Hawkins" and "Brother Ballantine," hardly suspect that particulars of still more vital interest than any that have as yet arisen from the present trial were discussed before a French court of law more than three centuries ago. All of us are aware that in cases of natural resemblance, especially with twins, the discernment of the most familiar acquaintance is often at fault; but strange freaks of the same description have also been played by mere fortuitous likenesses. Ancient writers amuse us with their tales of the "ridiculous" likeness between Strabo, the great Pompey's father, and his cook, and of the other still more striking resemblance of Sulla, a Roman Proconsul in Sicily, to a fisherman native of that island—a resemblance not only of feature, size, and figure, but also of voice, smile, and gesture, with the additional coincidence of the habit of stammering. It is known that the Proconsul, who could not account for the phenomenon, maliciously asked his familiar "whether his mother had ever been at Rome," whereupon the fisherman ingenuously answered, "Not my mother, but my father."

In the case we now propose to condense, however, the identity was in a great measure a matter of imagination. People who had seen to an undeniable likeness in perfectly good faith, and upon the strongest and most irresistible conviction, were ultimately compelled to acknowledge their error, and to give, as it were, evidence against themselves. The main facts of the case are the following:—In the year 1539 Martin Guerre, a native of Biscay, belonging to the class of well-to-do peasant proprietors, married a girl, by name Bertrande de Rols, an inhabitant of Artigues, in the diocese of Rieux, in Languedoc, where Martin's family had resided. Both the bride and bridegroom were at the time little more than children, about eleven years old, and nine years passed before they had any children. At last a son was born, whom they called Sanxi, and about whose birth there were some circumstances which might be presumed to have remained a secret between the parents. It happened that Martin Guerre robbed his father of some corn, and, dreading the consequences of a detection of his offence, left the country, and was absent eight years, during which there was neither trace nor intelligence of him. In the interval his father died, leaving four daughters under the guardianship of his brother, Pierre Guerre, who managed the family estate in the name of the absent Martin. At the end of eight years the lost Martin Guerre, or one whom everyone at once recognised as such, reappeared in Artigues, and was welcomed by his wife Bertrande, by his sisters, by his uncle, and by all his friends and acquaintances, living with them three years without casting a shadow of suspicion. His wife, who had been tenderly attached to her husband before his disappearance, was overjoyed at his supposed return, clung to the new comer with redoubled affection, and bore him two children, one of whom died in tender age. Presently, however, a soldier happened to go through the village of Artigues, who, at a private interview, communicated to Bertrande the startling intelligence that her real husband, Martin Guerre, was living in Flanders; that he had been a soldier, like himself, and had lost a leg, carried off by a cannon-ball at the battle of St. Laurent. Bertrande, evidently disturbed, but not convinced, went to a notary, bade him draw up a record of the soldier's revelations, but took no further notice of them, and continued to live on the most intimate terms with the man who had been represented to her as an impostor. At the end of three years disputes arose between the alleged Martin Guerre and his uncle Pierre with respect to the restitution of part of the property. Pierre proceeded to acts of violence against the man who he believed to be his nephew, and in one instance, in which he believed him with a bar of iron, the nephew was only rescued from the uncle's fury by the interference of the loving Bertrande. Shortly afterwards this same nephew was arrested in consequence of a quarrel he had with one of the villagers, and while he was in duress at Toulouse his uncle Pierre and four of the sons-in-law of this latter endeavoured to prevail on Bertrande to denounce Martin as an impostor. But she withstood all their arguments, and to every doubt urged against the man now personating her, she instantly replied that he must "either be Martin Guerre or the devil in his skin." Her imprisoned husband was presently released on bail, and on his return to his village he was again received by her with every mark of conjugal attachment. But on the following day, early in the morning, his uncle Pierre, with his four sons-in-law, broke into Martin's house with arms in their hands, and, professing to act by power of attorney in the name of the prisoner, charging him with fraud and deception. The power of attorney, however, as it was proved, was only drawn up by Bertrande in the evening of that same day.

The prosecution began before the Judge at Rieux, and witnesses came forward on each side. It was alleged on the part of the uncle that the prisoner was not Martin Guerre, but one Arnauld de Tilh, alias Pansette, of Sagias, a man of bad character, known to many in the district from early youth. On behalf of the

prisoner it was urged that he had been, after an absence of eight years, recognised without hesitation by his uncle, by his four sisters, and by his wife, as well as by all the community, without any doubt ever arising as to his identity for a whole period of three years. No change was noticed in the man except the growth of a long beard, which had taken the place of the youthful down which fringed his chin at the time of his disappearance. It was urged that the intimacy of married life precluded the possibility of deception on the part of Bertrande, and much stress was laid on her blameless conduct, on her upright character, on the strong affection she had always shown for her husband, present or absent, and on her visible repugnance to join her husband's uncle in his prosecution. Allusion was made to those conjugal secrets respecting the birth of their first child, Sanxi, which were not of a nature to find their way out of the nuptial chamber. The prisoner pointed to the fact that from the very moment of his reappearance he found himself perfectly at home on all subjects connected with his former life, greeted friends and acquaintances on their first meeting, each of them with the degree of cordiality justified by their former intimacy, reminding them of circumstances which had escaped their memory, and dwelling on particulars either of so private or of so trivial a nature that prearrangement or collusion seemed altogether out of the question. He described with the greatest accuracy his father and mother, his marriage, the priest who had celebrated it, the witnesses, the guests, the persons who (according to custom) had accompanied him within the threshold of the bridal chamber, and up to the nuptial bed, where the bride awaited him; and especially those circumstances of an extremely delicate nature connected with the birth of his child Sanxi. He gave a most precise account of his eight years' wanderings, of his serving first in the French, then in the Spanish army, and his narrative was ascertained to be thoroughly correct in every particular. Bertrande also, being examined, not only confirmed all the prisoner's assertions, but alluded to their long-entertained belief that their having no children for nine years had been by them attributed to witchcraft, and to the prayers, fasting, and masses to which they had recourse for a counter-charm—all circumstances on which, on a second examination, her statements were found to tally in every respect with those of the prisoner.

Witnesses then came in to the number of 150. Between thirty and forty of them expressed no doubt about the identity between the prisoner and the long-absent Martin Guerre; fifty declared that the prisoner was no other than Arnauld de Tilh, and sixty professed themselves to be so perplexed by the resemblance between Martin and Arnauld, both of whom they had familiarly and intimately known, that they found it impossible to come to a conclusion. The son Sanxi was then produced, and no resemblance whatever was traced from him to his supposed father, the prisoner; but, on the other hand, the prisoner was said to have the family look, and to be as like the four sisters of Martin Guerre "as one egg is like another egg."

Upon summing up this conflicting evidence the Judge of Rieux gave sentence against the prisoner, and condemned him, as an impostor, adulterer, usurper, &c., to be beheaded and quartered. But the case was brought for appeal before the Parliament of Toulouse, and subjected to a new inquiry. The prisoner was confronted with Bertrande, and professed that he would abide by her decision. He would care for no other witness but her, and place his life at her discretion. "Would she swear that he was not Martin Guerre?" Bertrande's answer was that "she could neither swear nor believe it." New batches of witnesses were then summoned. Out of thirty, ten swore that the prisoner was Martin Guerre, seven that he was Arnauld de Tilh; the remainder were doubtful. And yet all these had been well acquainted with both; they had all been boon companions together, and knew every particular connected with both of them from infancy. An uncle of Arnauld and some of his friends avowed that they had recognised the prisoner as Arnauld from the very outset, but that they had hesitated about exposing him, either from reluctance to bring him to the scaffold or from consideration of what their connivance might bring to themselves. In other words, they convicted themselves of false testimony.

The most singular point of the case was that, upon summing up the opinion of all the witnesses, there seemed to be no actual personal resemblance between Martin Guerre and Arnauld de Tilh. Martin was described as somewhat tall and dark, with a thin body and limbs, a sunken head between vaulted shoulders, a forked chin pointed upwards, a hanging nether lip, a large turned-up nose, with an ulcer on his face and a scar on his eyebrow; while Arnauld was not tall, but thick-set, with a protuberant body, a good stout leg, no stoop in the shoulders, with features in no way answering Martin's description, and, although he had scars about his face, no two witnesses could agree as to the peculiar spots on which they were. A shoemaker who had fitted Martin with shoes for years averred that his shoes were longer and larger by one fourth than any shoes which would suit the prisoner's feet. Other witnesses testified that Martin had been skilled in fencing and wrestling, while the prisoner was totally unacquainted with those accomplishments; that Martin was a native of Biscay, while the prisoner was evidently unfamiliar with the Basque language, and broke down in his attempt to speak a few words of it. Finally, it was established that Arnauld de Tilh was a notorious scamp, an infidel, and a blasphemer, guilty of deeds of fraud and violence; a man of low cunning and consummate impudence—in fact, just such a man as might be deemed capable of conceiving a bold scheme of deception and going through with it with the most brazen assurance. There, indeed, appeared one witness—by name Jean Espagnol, an innkeeper—who asserted that Arnauld de Tilh had been his guest, that he had told him how, in his travels, he had fallen in with his old comrade, Martin Guerre; how they had lived and roved together for a long time, laying aside all reserve and obtaining the fullest knowledge of each other's secrets, intoxication even frequently letting out what ought to have been most sacred; and that the said Martin, having been taken ill and being about to die, had given him, Arnauld de Tilh, whatever he had about his person. All these particulars, Jean Espagnol said, had been revealed to him by Arnauld, but in the strictest secrecy, and upon his pledging himself to reveal them to no man. All this evidence, however, had not sufficient weight with the Parliament of Toulouse, who set against it the spontaneous and undisputed recognition of the prisoner as Martin Guerre for three years by all who had interest in ascertaining the truth, and even by some who might have had interest in disproving it, as was the case with the uncle, Pierre Guerre, who was at the head of the prosecution, but who had yet so long lived on friendly terms with the prisoner, never dreaming of disputing his identity with his nephew till he came to a contest with him, attempted his life, and, being baffled in his assault, swore he would have his revenge at any cost. With respect to the conflict of evidence as to personal identity, the Court had to consider that Martin Guerre had left the country in his twentieth year, when growth, even in height, was by no means impossible, while thinness and weakness of appearance, and even a stoop in the shoulders, might have been modified by a more active life, a change of climate and of the habits of life. As to features and the expression of the countenance, little reliance could be put on the powers of observation and recollection of mere ignorant bores. On most of these points the resemblance between Martin and the prisoner was grounded on the assertion of the majority of the witnesses, all of whom, besides, concurred in establishing the wonderful likeness of the prisoner to the four sisters of Martin, at the same time that they could trace no connection between the prisoner and Martin's son, Sanxi—all which circumstances led to the conclusion that the mere family type, undeveloped features, was evident when referred to the settled countenance of grown-up persons. The facts, also, that Martin Guerre was remembered as having double eye-teeth in the upper jaw, a scar on the forehead, the nail of the forefinger of his left hand sunk in the flesh, three warts on the right hand and one

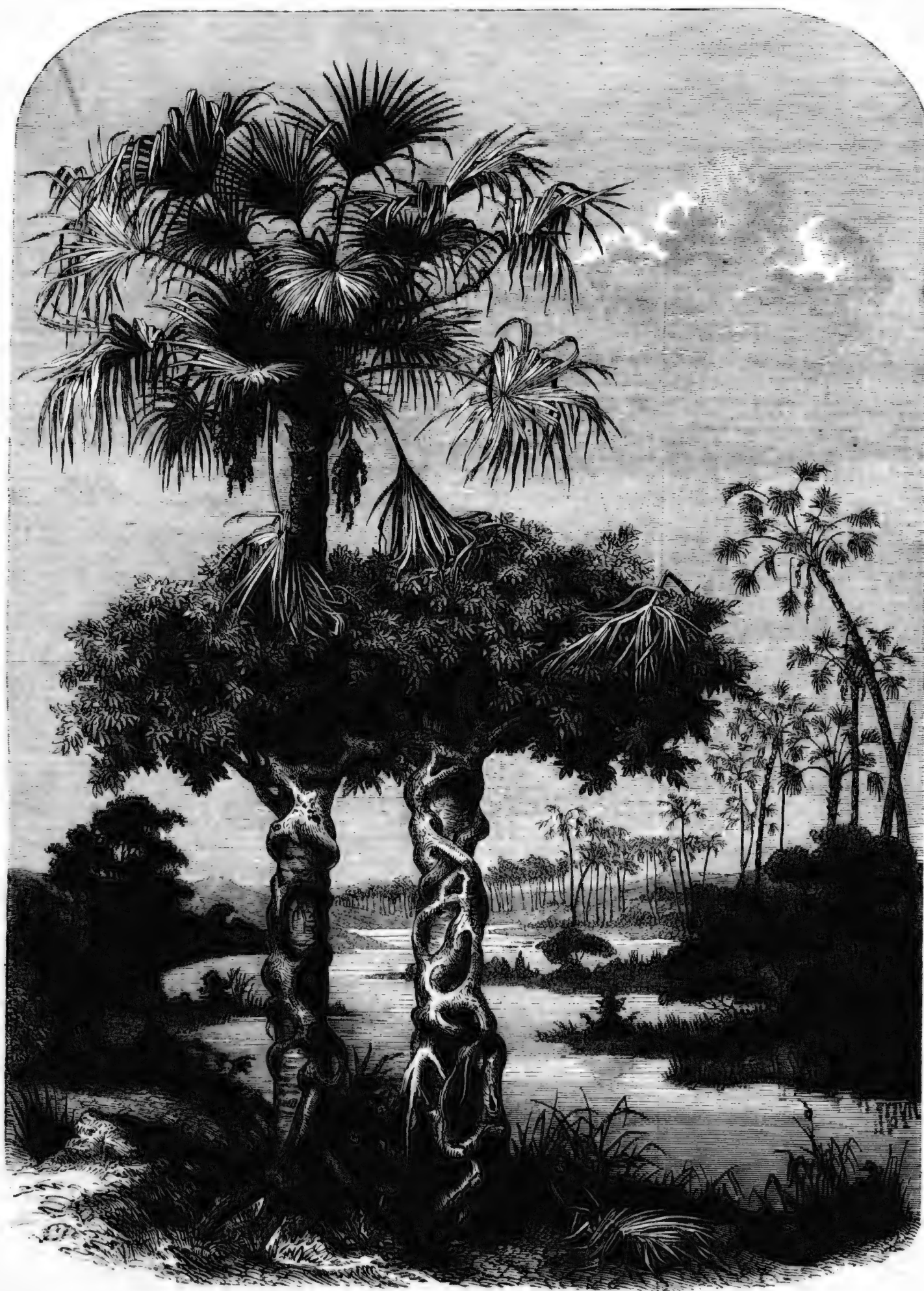
on the little finger, and that the prisoner exhibited all these marks on his face and hands, carried not a little weight in his favour. The objection that the alleged Martin Guerre, a born Basque, was almost totally unacquainted with the Basque language, was overruled by the circumstance that the real Martin had left Biscay when only two years old, and settled in Languedoc. There was no evidence to his having retained the knowledge of his native tongue, or being able to speak it at the time of his disappearance. Finally, the very character that all witnesses gave to Arnauld de Tilh tended to disprove the identity between him and the prisoner, as the prisoner's conduct during the three years of his residence at Artigues had been irreproachable.

Everything combined thus to incline the Judges of the Toulouse Parliament to give their sentence in favour of the prisoner, when a man calling himself Martin Guerre, and with a wooden leg, answering the description given by the soldier to Bertrande, appeared in court. He was immediately arrested and confined to a cell, and deprived him of all communication with the outer world; and, being secretly examined, he entered into all the particulars respecting his family, his village, and his acquaintance with considerable accuracy, but yet not with the minuteness, with the promptness and certainty, which had been displayed by the first prisoner throughout the transaction. The two Martins were then confronted, and both stood the test of cross-examination with firmness; but it was observed that the new comer, although consistent and positive, was in frequent instances, and especially in matters of domestic and conjugal concerns, less glib and explicit than his adversary. They were plied separately with questions on topics which had hitherto never been alluded to in the trial, but the answers were equally ready and fully satisfactory on each side. Witnesses were then called; first, the brothers of Arnauld de Tilh, who all absconded, and were vainly subpoenaed, as they did not wish to run any risk of criminating so near a relative in what had now become a matter of life and death; next, the sisters of Martin Guerre, who, as they entered one by one and cast a glance on the new comer, threw their arms round his neck, bursting into tears, calling him their real brother, and asking his pardon a thousand times for having allowed themselves to be the dupes of a gross deception, which had equally imposed upon all their neighbours. Bertrande came next, and in her case also the first sight of the man with the wooden leg seemed to cause the scales at once to fall from her eyes. She sank on her knees before the husband she had so grievously and yet so unwittingly wronged, and she urged in her exculpation the astonishing resemblance between him and the villain who had deceived her, and the readiness with which his own sisters and all the village of Artigues had fallen into the delusion. There was no revulsion of feeling manifested itself in all the witnesses who were brought in in succession, especially in those who had been foremost in acknowledging the first pretender and in giving evidence in his favour. The passionate accent and the flowing tears of the loving wife carried conviction to the hearts of the judges. The man with the wooden leg was reinstated in all his rights as Martin Guerre, and the impostor, Arnauld de Tilh, was condemned to be hanged and burnt. Before he was led out for execution he avowed that he had served as a soldier with Martin Guerre; that he had lived with him on such terms of friendship as enabled him to gain possession of all his secrets; and that upon his return from the wars, having accidentally fallen in with some persons who had mistaken him for his friend, he had conceived the scheme of taking that friend's name and place—a scheme which had at first succeeded to the full extent of his expectation.—Times.

METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENTS.—Some considerable extensions are about to be made to the Admiralty and Horse Guards, in Whitehall. The offices here have for some time past been inconveniently crowded, and, consequently, new wings and offices are to be erected. The Admiralty gardens, therefore, are to a great extent doomed to demolition, and a large slice of the park, looking towards the Mall, will be inclosed and built upon. The new offices, which will be shared by the Admiralty and War Office, will extend to the Paymaster-General's Department on the west, and to the house in Spring-gardens on the north. The Accountant-General of the Admiralty will thus lose his house in Spring-gardens, which will be required for the purposes of the extension. The Act for these important works has not yet been obtained, but votes for clearing the site and laying the foundations will be asked for by the War Office and the Admiralty. We learn that the Duke of Northumberland is now redeeming the land tax on his property surrounding Northumberland House, with the ultimate intention of erecting a new and superior class of buildings. It is also said that his Grace contemplates a new street from Charing-cross, through Scotland-yard, to the Embankment.—Architect.

VICTORIA PARK.—A deputation of gentlemen from the neighbourhood of Victoria Park, headed by Mr. Charles Reed, M.P., and the Rev. Septimus Hamard, waited on the Chancellor of the Exchequer, last Saturday, to urge the claims of the population to about thirty-five acres of land still un-built on, and which formed part of the land reserved for building purposes when the grant for the park was originally made. Mr. Lowe said he fully concurred in the opinion of the deputation that it would be most desirable if the thirty-five acres could be added to the park instead of being built upon; but he had to look at the matter from the point of view of his duty to the public. He understood the case to be that money had been advanced by the public in some shape to buy the land, that a certain portion of that land was given to the Board of Works to be laid out in a park, and a certain other portion to the Board of Works and Forests to recoup it for the price given for the park. The reserved land, therefore, was the property of the public at large, and the deputation were really asking him to give them a certain amount of public money for the east end of London. It was just the same as if they were asking him to grant money to make a new park. There was plenty of money in London—plenty even in the east end of London—to enable the inhabitants of the district to purchase this land at its full value; and if they did not think it desirable to do so, why was he to be asked to tax the whole people for the purpose of doing that which the locality did not think it worth while to do? A similar application had been made to him about Epping Forest. He declined; and he was now happy to see that the Corporation of the city of London were bringing in a bill to purchase those rights. That was the proper course to take. If they wanted other people's property, the best thing was to put their hands in their pockets and buy it; and if they could not make up their minds to do that, they must not expect people to give it to them. In reply to a question whether the Government would suspend the granting of leases for a time in the event of the local authorities doing anything to raise the money, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said he would do anything in the world to help them, and in that case he would stop the building.

LEGAL EDUCATION.—The following is the report of the Legal Education Committee of the four Inns of Court, pursuant to the orders of reference made by the several societies in 1871:—"The joint committee of the four Inns of Court beg to report to the several societies that they have met and considered what should be done with the view of carrying into full effect the resolutions on the subject of legal education, dated June 22, 1871, and confirmed by subsequent orders of the several societies; and for that purpose they recommend the adoption of the following amendments of the Consolidated Regulations of the four Inns of Court:—1. That no student admitted after Dec. 31, 1871, be called to the Bar, or allowed to take out a certificate to practise as a special pleader, conveyancer, or draftsman in Law, unless such student shall, to the satisfaction of the Council of Legal Education, have passed a public examination for the purpose of ascertaining his fitness to be called to the Bar, and have obtained from the said Council a certificate of having passed such examination. 2. That the Council of Legal Education established by clause 24 of the Consolidated Regulations consist for the future of twenty Bachelors, five to be nominated by each of the Inns of Court. 3. That the subjects for examination and the times and mode of conducting the examination be under the regulation of the Council of Legal Education, but that one such examination at least be held in or shortly before each term. 4. That the appointment of the readers and examiners be for the future with the Council of Legal Education, who shall from time to time recommend to the Inns of Court the amount of remuneration to be paid to the readers and examiners. 5. That each Inn increase the contributions now made to the common fund, with the view to augment the remuneration of the readers, and otherwise advancing legal education. 6. That for every student who obtains a certificate of having satisfactorily passed a public examination, the Inn of Court to which he belongs shall, in addition to the aforesaid contributions, pay to the common fund the sum of £5 5s. 7. That the Council of Legal Education be empowered to accept, on such conditions as they shall think equity, a degree in law granted by any of the Universities of England, Ireland, or Scotland to any student as an equivalent for examination in any one or more of the subjects in which the Council shall require students to be examined. 8. That clauses 15 and 22 of the Consolidated Regulations be repealed as from Dec. 31, 1871, with respect to students who shall be admitted to any Inn of Court after that day, but shall remain in force with respect to students admitted before that day.—JOHN LOCKE, Chairman, Dec. 6, 1871."



A TOUCH OF NATURE FROM THE TROPICS: A WINE PALM STRANGLED BY ITS PARASITE.

A TOUCH OF NATURE FROM THE TROPICS.

WHEN Mr. Darwin writes his next book on vegetable development, and begins to inform us of his discovery of a remarkable physiological resemblance between plants and animals, or even between most intimate friends and our familiar esculents, he will surely derive his most remarkable illustration from certain parasites and the trees to which they are mostly attached. Of course, we have all fancied extraordinary appearances in the gnarled trunks and bulbous branches of old trees, about which more than one mysterious similitude may have occurred to us; but there is something so suggestive in the forms of certain denizens of the tropical forest that so imaginative a philosopher as the author of "The Descent of Man" will scarcely fail to remind us of them. For our own part, we are contented to publish our little contribution from the note-book of a traveller in the tropics as a seasonable illustration for the present weather. The wine-palm has a pleasant significance about it, and we can almost pardon the thirsty parasite which in that climate hangs to it with the pertinacity of a parched toper who lingers about a tavern door. The moral lesson may be found in our smaller illustration—that of the suicidal parasite which keeps on clinging to itself, and so ends in self-destruction.

To discourse on palms would be to take the reader with Mr. Ellis through the forests of Madagascar, where the parasites are often gloriously beautiful flowering plants or gorgeous orchids; or to enter into dissertations on the various species of this royal family of trees—the coconut, the date, the fan, and all those splendidly-leaved varieties which are used for thatching, roofing, shelter, defence; the sago-palm, which provides delicious food; the iriarte or ceroxylon, or wax-wood; the unctuous oil-palm; the astringent calamus draco, or dragon's blood, of another variety; the numerous descriptions of fibrous-leaved trees, of the spicules of which needles may be made; while others supply rope, twine, and cordage, and their timber answers all purposes, from a tough house-beam to an elastic walking-cane. It is, however, the palmyra, or borassus, the magnificent tree whose sweet juice, flowing from holes made by an augur, is fermented into wine which will make even the thick head of an African ache with the recollection of its strength, with which we have concerned ourselves; and the crawling, lizard-like parasite that claspeth it until it is strangled and decays is typical, perhaps, of something that the moralist may deal with as a symbol, even though the naturalist may fail to establish a fanciful relationship.

THE DISTURBANCES IN BRUSSELS.

THE excitement in Brussels—of the causes and course of which our readers have been fully informed—has now entirely subsided; and the new Ministers have been sworn in by the King. The Ministry has been provided with a President of the Council without portfolio, which is an innovation in Belgium, increasing the usual number of Ministers from six to seven. The Ministers are of the purest clerical dye, as free in the eyes of Catholics from the taint of Liberalism as in those of the Liberals from the taint of Langrandism. Count de Theux, the new President of the Council, belongs to the Chamber of Representatives, is nearly an octogenarian, and has been in Parliament ever since the National Congress. He is considered a safe politician, of upright character, who, notwithstanding his clerical proclivities, is not likely to commit himself to any policy opposed to common-sense and the interests of his country. The most prominent figure in the new Cabinet is M. Malou, the Minister of Finance and a Senator, who



A SELF-STRANGLING PARASITE.

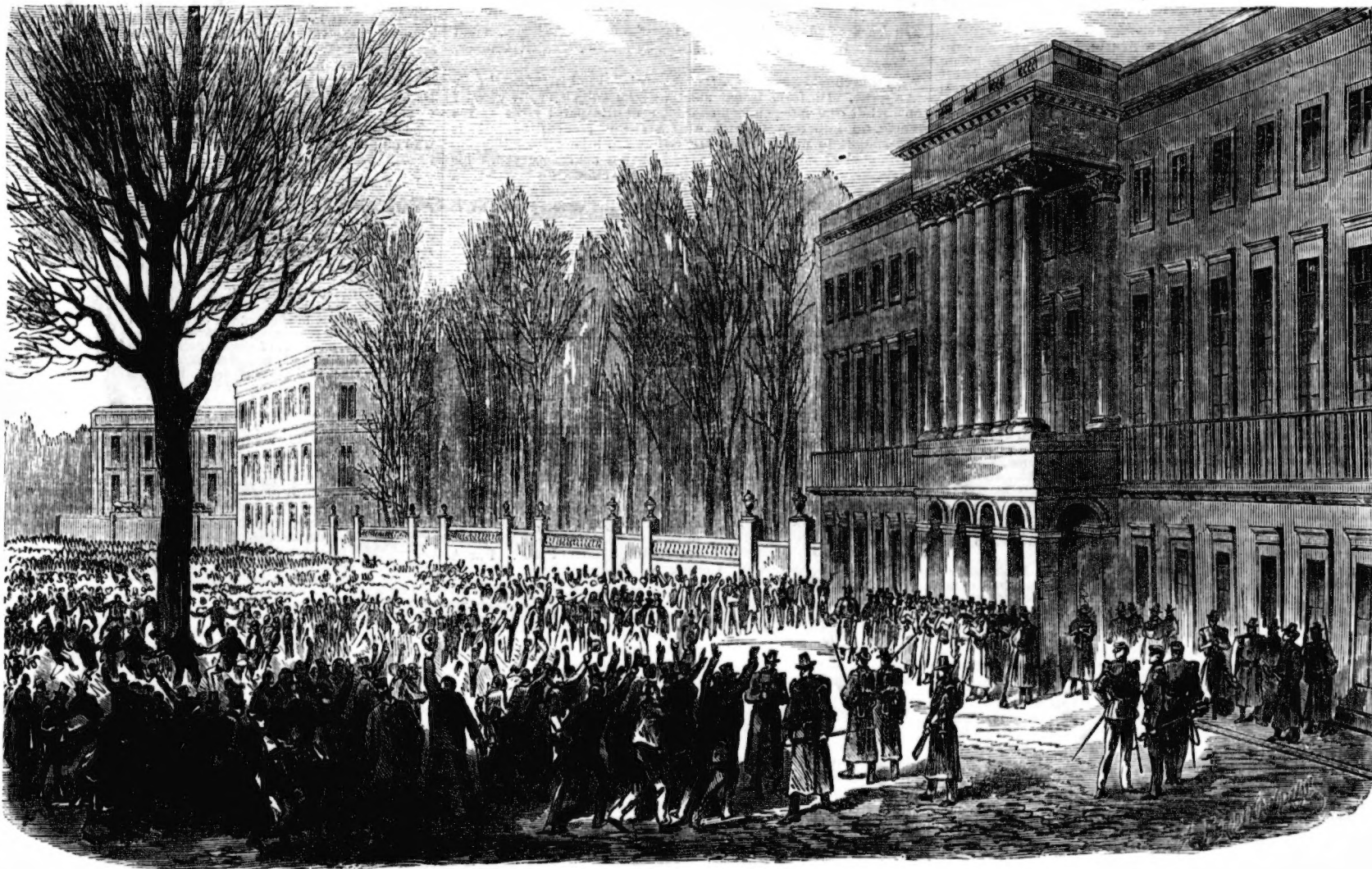
has already been several times Minister. M. Malou has always been looked upon as one of the greatest financial capacities of his country, and was of late years at the head of some of the most important banking and industrial enterprises of Belgium. He has always declared himself in favour of a reduction of taxation, a short term of military service, and the completion of the defensive works of Antwerp. Last year he presented in the Senate a measure directed against the propaganda of the International. He may fairly be considered as the most able of the Belgian Catholic statesmen. M. Delcourt, the Minister of the Interior, Professor of Civil Law at the University of Louvain, and a member for the arrondissement of Louvain, is a man praised for his moderation, and has frequently furnished excellent reports to the Chamber. M. Moncheur, a representative for the arrondissement of Namur, has received the very important appointment of Minister of Public Works, which in Belgium comprises not only the public works, but also the postal, telegraph, and railway services. He has heretofore not been much remarked in the Chamber, but is believed not to be devoid of ability. His predecessor had, rightly or wrongly, become the laughing-stock of the entire Liberal press, owing to his manners as well as his measures, and M. Moncheur will have

much to do to efface the impression of ridicule which has been attached to the holder of his office. Count d'Aspremont-Lynden, a senator who has been selected for the office of Minister of Foreign Affairs, belongs to the old nobility of the country, and is a very wealthy landed proprietor. The new Ministry seems also to have been desirous of strengthening itself with young talent. The Ministry of Justice, which now appears to belong by right to a young man—M. Bara and M. Cornesse were comparatively very young men—has been given to M. de Landtsheere, a clever, hard-working barrister of the Brussels Bar. A member of the majority will resign his seat to enable him to get into the Chamber. The possession of a seat in either House is not required by law from the Belgian Ministers; but precedent has now made it customary to choose them from among the members of the Chamber. The Belgian Ministers have also no Under-Secretaries of State to assist them in the Parliamentary debates; but, though few, they have heretofore been found sufficient, as they are all allowed to take part in the debates of both Chambers, voting, of course, only in the one of which they are members. The Ministry of War has always been considered as a specialty, to be bestowed according to the exigencies of the public, and not of party service. There is, therefore, nothing astonishing in the fact that the resignation which General Guillaume has tendered, with the rest of his former colleagues, has not been accepted. General Guillaume is a zealous military reformer, and is altogether in favour of obligatory military service, like most distinguished officers of the Belgian army. It is reported that the new Ministry intend to cut the ground from under their Liberal opponents, by introducing measures of a popular character. They will begin, it is supposed, with a scheme of compulsory education.

A LEADING FRENCH COMMUNIST.

THE following sketch of Vermersch, better known as "Père Duchêne," from the name of the journal he conducted during the rule of the Commune in Paris, is drawn by one of his friends, and must be read accordingly:—

"A little, fair-faced man, serenely Flemish in expression, yet withal hard and haughty at times, rises in the midst of one of the Communist clubs which are rapidly taking root among us. A hush ensues; the rebels who will not listen to an ex-member of their own Government, who impeach Jourde and sneer at Jules Vallès, are now quiet, attentive, and—as much as a Frenchman can be—respectful. Père Duchêne is addressing them. He is gifted with no eloquence, nor is he much used to public speaking; but his short speeches are something like Rochefort's *boutades* at the Corps Législatif under the Empire. In a calm, short, imperative tone the biting words fall from the orator's lips. He spares them no unpalatable truth, describes them to their own faces with contemptuous epithets and allusions, and is listened to throughout with a kindly patience quite unparalleled in French political meetings. The reason which prompts this behaviour is neither very complex nor obscure. If the Père Duchêne did not provoke the revolution of March, it sustained, it instilled, as it were, new blood into the veins of the discouraged combatants, stimulated flagging spirits, gave the revolution courage and the equivalent of courage—gaiety—during the latter days of life; and represented the largest, if not the most refined, section of its supporters. Père Duchêne spoke the people's language to the people, and in favour of the sordid people's cause. Besides the consideration gained by the political part he played, Vermersch owes much to some peculiar personal qualities better appreciated in France and by the French revolutionists than by any other country



THE LATE EXCITEMENT IN BRUSSELS: DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF THE ROYAL PALACE.

or party in the universe. The *Figaro*, the journal in which his literary career commenced, and which is now his most implacable enemy, is just meritorious enough to speak of him as 'le délicat et lettré Vermersch.' In truth, Péro Duchêne is, perhaps, as near the antitype of the fictitious *marchand de fourneaux* that Hébert created as the bravest reactionary *gandin* of the Boulevard des Italiens. Personally, he is elegant, gentle, and even *mignon*. Seen in his *Figaro* days, at the hour of absinthe in the Café de Suède, nothing in the juvenile face, fresh as a type of Van Ostade, could be tortured by observers into a sign of the character which popular tradition assigns to the creator of the Péro Duchêne. He was and is a poet, a friend of *la jeune France littéraire*—Eckmann-Chatrian, Boudelaire, Monselet, Leconte de Lisle, the Parnassians, the Ilaschichiens, and seekers of unknown and refined pleasures. Monselet first brought him into notice as a poet in the 'Almanach des Muses.' His verses have the weird fervour of Edgar Poe's best creations and the satirical bitterness of Barbier's 'lambes.'

As a politician, apart from the laboured strain and a certain uncouth *bonhomie* of language by which he is chiefly known, Vermersch remained the *raffiné* he was in his literary life. His friends during the Communal revolution were the most polished and lettered leaders of the Paris people. Ros-el was among the most intimate; and I have seen the violent counsellor of incendiarism and quasi-murder touched like a child by the reading of the last letters of him who fell at Satory a few days past. Ferré was also closely attached to Vermersch—Materialist and Pantheist; having, however, nothing more in common than a profound conviction as to the nature of the means necessary to further the success of the Communal movement.

"These chiefs of the Paris insurrection, to whom must be accorded at least sincere convictions and a certain political ability (and with them all who knew him intimately in the hour of his weakness and discouragement, as well as in that of his power), have felt at times at a loss to account for the assumption by Vermersch of the rôle of political pamphleteer and agitator. What motive was powerful enough to induce the Bohemian, the dreamer, whose worst sin was an ill-turned sonnet, whose highest ambition the attainment of some purely poetical ideal, to leave the lazy Oriental life of the Pays Latin—to hunt for curious elzevirs in dusty shops of the Quai Voltaire—for the heat and noise, and hurry of the club or committee-room, with a prospect of death at the door? Was it the fierce revolutionary longing, whose truest name is envy, which has made of the Parisian people a race apart? Vermersch was by his social position and family relations one of the all-powerful class of France—the bourgeoisie. He had passed his examinations at the Faculté de Médecine, and could, after a few formalities, claim the rank of doctor. Love of gain? His future was assured, his name had become well known in literary circles; and, by developing the singular faculty which he undeniably possesses, he would have attained far greater success, in a commercial sense, than any to be hoped for from the ephemeral reputation to which he has linked his name. The one evil would have been sure; the other is sentence of death and a demand of extradition as a malefactor. The answer to such a question is, speaking as one who knows his object thoroughly, that Vermersch has, like many of his countrymen in whom the cramming process of education breeds satiety or stupidity, an irresistible craving for all kinds of intellectual enjoyments; has read too much, remembers too much, and has made of himself an individuality composed of heterogeneous characters, fancies, and theories taken from various and opposite sources, and counteracting each other when mingled. He applies one of the quaint theories of Baudelaire to a social problem of Proudhon. The *ars poetica* is confounded in his head with the art of government; and the revolution of the *romantique* against the *classique*, a piece of the puzzle represented by the insurrection of Paris in 1871. He can have no clearly defined political faith, for he has little political knowledge; he can scarcely be a Democrat, for he is in every line and nerve a cynic. I have heard him rail at his party and his cause, saying, like *Figaro*, 'Pour ne pas en pleurer,' and crying recklessly, 'Paris, Paris! j'ai la nostalgie,' and have had my fill of exile and politics. The petulance and impatience which probably impelled him into the Communal movement were frequently evident during his escape from Paris. He was two weeks hiding in Paris, childishly timid and afraid at times, at others boisterous, imprudent, and gay. These contradictions give a clue to his conduct in the revolution, and in London as the editor of the *Qui Vive!* His friends know it, his more distant supporters guess it, and his sarcasms are tolerated, his bursts of passion excused. He is by no means a popular leader; but he is the only *Figariste* of the Commune, and is respected, pardoned, and admired as much as a psychological phenomenon as the *enfant gâté* of the party."

MICHAEL DAVID SIBBALD SCOTT AND DANIEL PRICE have been committed for trial, without bail, charged with having conspired to obtain £300 worth of goods by false pretences. Sir David Sibbald Scott, father of the former prisoner, said that during the past twelve months he had paid for him debts amounting to between £5000 and £6000. He allowed him a fixed income of £200 a year. Besides paying his debts, he had during the twelve months given him £2000 through an agent, and the defendant had also received large presents from his mother.

THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD.—At the ordinary meeting of the London School Board, on Wednesday, Mr. C. Reed, M.P., as chairman of the works committee, brought up a report recommending the hiring of several large buildings for schools, and the transfer of fourteen existing schools. The hon. member called the attention of the board to the fact that at the present time between thirty and forty schools were in active operation under the direction of the board and under the personal oversight of members of the various divisions. The report was carried. The next meeting of the board will take place on Jan. 10.

THE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—Professor Pepper has strengthened the attraction of the programme at the Polytechnic Institution by the introduction of one of his interesting and instructive lectures, illustrative, on this occasion, of the history of the British Army from the time of the Conquest to the present day. Mr. Pepper takes an optimistic view of the question, and seeks to refute the alarming assumptions of the author of "The Battle of Dorking" by reference to the present condition of our military establishment, which he deems to be, both as regards *personnel* and *material*, in the highest state of discipline and efficiency. He describes with lucidity the plan and progress of the recent "Autumn Manœuvres," of which he was himself an eye-witness, and he gives many authentic particulars respecting camp life at Aldershot and various stations both at home and abroad. The discourse, which is illustrated with graphic pictures taken on the spot by Mr. Hervé, and executed on glass by Mr. Kennett, is also melodiously diversified with patriotic songs, sung with great spirit and expression by Miss Barth. Mr. T. W. Tobin, who is just returned from the South African Diamond Fields, whither he had proceeded as captain of Mr. Streeter's expedition, delivers an entertaining lecture "About Diamonds;" Mr. George Gresham, jun., gives a musical and humorous performance, entitled "The Silver Wedding;" and there is abundance of other entertainments so varied and attractive as to afford genuine enjoyment to the audience.

AN EXCELLENT TEST FOR PUBLIC EFFORT.—At the last meeting of the Congregational Union of England and Wales much interest was excited in reference to a proposal brought before the assembly—to pronounce its approval of the Parliamentary motion in favour of permanent international arbitration, to be introduced in the House of Commons early next Session by Mr. Henry Richard, member for Merthyr Tydfil. The Congregational Union not only unanimously expressed its satisfaction with the proposal, but also passed a resolution inviting all the Congregational churches throughout the country to support the motion by their influence. Mr. Richard, being present at the meeting, was called upon to speak on the question, and in the course of his address remarked:—"I am confident that this is a question which you, as a religious body, can take up as in perfect harmony with the great object for which you are united together as a union. Soon after I first got connected with the Peace Society I called upon an old Welsh minister, and I remember his saying, 'Well, Mr. Richard, this is a new thing to me, this question of the Peace Society; and when I first heard that you had become associated with it I had some doubts as to the wisdom and propriety of your having done so; but I have one test for matters of this kind which I always bring all public questions to, and that is—Is this a thing that I can take into my closet and into the presence of my God, and pray for? And I feel that the work you are trying to do is a work that I can pray to God for, and therefore I wish you all God-speed.' Mr. Richard added:—"I think this is a question that we can pray for, and therefore that we can work for; and I trust that you will kindly work for me, so that I may be backed by a large amount of public opinion when I come to place the thing before the House of Commons."

MUSIC.

THE few concerts given since the relapse of the Prince of Wales yesterday week have been singularly dull and uneventful. Both performers and audience seemed to have their thoughts elsewhere, and to be glad when the work of performing and hearing was over. On all occasions there has been but a scanty attendance.

The Italian opera season closed last Saturday, with a performance of "Der Freischütz," in which Mdlle. Titiens carried off nearly all the honours. She, indeed, was about the only redeeming feature of a performance that suggested the scantiest preparation. Signor Vizzani, Signor Feli, and Mdlle. Banermeister sustained the other prominent parts, but their efforts led to very little good result. We could have wished better things for Weber's fine opera; but so to wish is vain under the system now regulating Italian opera performances—a system requiring the greatest amount of work in the smallest possible time. Mr. Mapleson has now taken his troupe into the provinces.

At the Crystal Palace, on Saturday last, Mendelssohn's "Scotch" symphony and his violin concerto were the great attractions. The first was played magnificently; and the second brought forward a lady violinist from America—Madame Camilla Uroo. The débutante was nervous, and we shall only say now that she produces a very fine tone, and plays with much intelligence. Her success with the audience was obvious. At this concert an overture by the late C. Lucas and that to Weber's "Oberon" were also played. The vocalists were Madame Trebelli, Signor Fancelli, and Signor Agnesi.

The last Monday Popular Concert was very poorly attended, and offered no particular attraction. Herr Pauer played Mozart's sonata in F major, and, with Signor Piatti, Beethoven's sonata for piano and violin in A major. Both "went" fairly well—the second better than the first. Mendelssohn's quartet in A minor and Haydn's in B flat respectively opened and closed the programme. The vocalist was Miss Matilda Scott, who has a fresh, high soprano voice, and a method which still needs cultivation.

The third Subscription Oratorio Concert will take place, at Exeter Hall, on the 20th inst., when Handel's "Messiah" will be performed. The principal parts are to be sustained by Madame Lemmens-Sherrington, Miss Annie Sinclair, Madame Laura Baxter, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Herr Stockhausen. This concert will have additional interest as Herr Stockhausen will sing in "The Messiah" for the first time in London, and on account of Madame Laura Baxter's reappearance.

NEW MUSIC.

The Practical Choir-Master. A Quarterly Publication of Original Church Music. No. 2. Edited by W. SPARK, Mus. Doc. Metzler and Co.

That there is plenty of room for such a serial as this we need not stop to demonstrate. Church music excites just now a great and growing interest, which will make Dr. Spark's work peculiarly welcome, and open to it a sphere of much usefulness. The number before us is promising. It contains a "Jubilate," by Henry Smart; anthem, "Blessed are the dead," by Mr. Brown Borthwick; anthem, "Praise ye the Lord," by Walter Macfarren; offertory sentence by the Rev. J. B. Dykes; introit by M. le Prevost; offertory sentence by C. Burbank; and hymn tune by Dr. Spark. Without laying claim to very great merit, these works are up to the average standard of excellence, and are adapted, by the nature of their construction, for widespread use.

Cramer's Vocal Gems. Nos. 45 and 46. Cramer, Wood, and Co.

This very cheap issue of popular selections sustains its character in the numbers before us, the first of which is made up of twelve Scotch songs; while the second includes nine comparatively new compositions by Macfarren, Offenbach, Reyloff, and others. The Scottish ditties hardly need recounting, as, from "Wake, Maid of Lorne," to "Auld Robin Gray," it is easy to guess their names. A very attractive set they are; and not less interesting, in their way, are the unnational "nine." We have only to add that the price of each group is sixpence, to show that "the force of cheapness can no further go."

The Young Mountaineer. Song. Written by Denis Coyne. Composed by ALBERTO RANDEGGER. Cramer, Wood, and Co.

Signor Randegger always writes in an interesting fashion, however familiar may be the theme which inspires him. Here we have a capital mountaineer's song, appropriately bold and manly, while not a little suggestive. The accompaniment is very well written indeed, and equal praise is deserved by a spirited refrain. Key, A flat major; compass adapted to a bass or contralto voice.

The Land of the Setting Sun. Duetting for Mezzo-Soprano and Tenor. Words by F. Enoch; Music by HENRY SMART. Cramer, Wood, and Co.

Why this should be called a "duettino" and not a "duet" fails to appear. Its form is extended, and its subjects fully worked out, while the independent character of the parts gives to the whole an importance which cannot escape recognition. It is superfluous to remark that Mr. Smart has here written like the accomplished musician he is; and that a charm pervades his music from the first bar to the last. We cannot do better than recommend the duet to favourable notice. The music is not difficult; and, though avoiding difficulty, the accompaniment is singularly interesting. Key, F major.

Forgotten. Song. Written and Composed by LOUISA GRAY. Cramer, Wood, and Co.

This is a simple love song in ballad style, depending mainly upon the conjunction of tender words with an unaffected melody. The accompaniment, besides being of an ordinary character, is open to improvement. Key, G major; compass somewhat extended—D to G.

She Sleeps, my Lady Sleeps. Serenade. Words by Longfellow; Music by J. F. SIMPSON. Cramer, Wood, and Co.

Longfellow's impassioned verses have been often set to music, and we are not prepared to say that the present attempt makes all further effort unnecessary. There are features of interest in Mr. Simpson's music undoubtedly, but its cumbersome nine-eight rhythm and general pretentiousness are drawbacks of a serious character. We should have preferred some gentle, tender, and soothing strains in harmony with the poet's tranquil numbers. Mr. Simpson has written restlessly. Key, F major; highest note, F.

Dans les Bois. Morceau Caractéristique pour Piano. Par A. Rendano. Cramer, Wood, and Co.

We much like this unaffected and musically andantino in F major. Its themes are tuneful, and their treatment shows the self-restraint which prefers considerations of true art to a desire for self-display. Amateurs of cultivated tastes should note this little work. It presents no difficulty whatever as regards execution. M. Rendano will be remembered as a pianist who appeared at several concerts in London about three years ago.

Grand Fantasia on Scotch Airs for the Pianoforte. By OSCAR BERINGER. Cramer, Wood, and Co.

The airs selected for treatment in this piece are—"Ye banks and braes" and "The Hundred Pipers," both of which are decorated in a very elaborate, yet very effective, mode. Mr. Beringer has limited himself by no considerations of the character of his themes or the average capacity of those who play such pieces. Hence great showiness of style and some considerable executive difficulties. The fantasia would serve admirably as a concert-piece.

Cramer's Celebrated Tutor for the Pianoforte. Edited by J. RUMMEL. Cramer, Wood, and Co.

The elementary instructions in this work are clearly and suc-

inctly conveyed, great help being given by a clever diagram of the pianoforte keyboard. Some well-graduated exercises, interesting "recitations," and arrangements of popular airs make up a book worthy to hold a good place among things of its kind. The "Tutor" is No. 1. of a new educational series projected by the enterprising publishers.

A MODEL BABY FARM.

THE revelations concerning baby-farming, by which the public were shocked some months ago, have had the practical good effect of prompting more than one earnest endeavour to meet and diminish the evils which they laid bare. Among these endeavours a very prominent place should be given to the "Model Baby Farm," or Sophia Nursery, established by Miss Dampier, at St. John's House, North-end-road, Fulham, and hitherto privately maintained. Miss Dampier had for her object to provide a home for the first children of unmarried mothers, a home where they might be kept until they were two years of age and were fit to be sent to an infant school, or, at all events, could be placed elsewhere without difficulty. A servant or shop attendant in regular employment would usually be able to find a sufficiently good home for a child two years old; but for her to obtain proper care and attendance for a young infant has hitherto been almost impossible. Many a young mother is sent out from a workhouse infirmary or a lying-in hospital to whom the child in her arms is not only an evidence of shame but also a cause of destitution, inasmuch as it stands in the way of the only kind of industry to which she has been trained. The maternal instinct is then an insufficient defence against constantly recurring temptation; and the child is too often placed with some hag whose very business is to suffer it to die by neglect, if not by agencies still more speedy in their operation, while at the same time she suggests the consolation that the poor little thing will be "better away." It is surely a good work to take such children at the earliest possible period and to carry them safely over the exceptional perils by which the beginnings of their lives are beset. Still more is it a good work to do this in such a manner that the mothers may themselves be reached through their children, their good feelings fostered and encouraged, and a way back to a better life held open to them.

To accomplish such ends as these Miss Dampier opened the Sophia Nursery, which has now been in operation seven or eight months. Two houses in the North-end-road were thrown together and provided with the simple fittings required. The necessary nurses were engaged, and Miss Dampier went herself to reside in the establishment for the first five months, in order to superintend its organisation and daily work. The following simple rules were laid down for its governance:—

1. Infants are eligible for admission up to three months of age, and will, as a general rule, be retained for two years only.
2. The first children only of unmarried women will be received.
3. A weekly charge, proportionate to the amount gained by the mother, will be made for each child. The sum to be charged will be fixed by the visitors.
4. The mothers must conform to such regulations as the visitors may from time to time enact.
5. Every mother, on leaving her child at the institution, will have to sign an agreement in conformity with the above-mentioned rules.

It was intended that the inmates of the nursery should divide themselves naturally into two classes, the long-coated and the short-coated babies; but the first batch that were received have now all crossed the boundary line, and some of them have arrived at the dignity of sitting at table in chairs of their own. There is room for sixteen more infants, and each of the sixteen vacant cots has its future occupant already assigned to it, and for the present excluded by want of means. Miss Dampier determined to establish the institution, and to give practical proof how excellently it would work, before making any general appeal for contributions. But it is manifest that it cannot be self-supporting; and its fondness naturally shrinks from pledging herself to its future maintenance. This must rest with the benevolent among the public, and they, if they will only acquaint themselves with the good that is being done by its means, can hardly turn a deaf ear to its claims upon them for support. If such support should be afforded to the extent that is hoped, Miss Dampier would like eventually to connect the nursery with a maternity institution, and to receive the infants when only three or four days old.

For all baby-fanciers, and for a much larger class—all, namely, who need to be instructed in the hygienic management of young children—the nursery will well repay a visit. Many of the nurselings are constitutionally feeble, many were seriously ill when admitted. For such there has been no lack of skilled medical care, but those who have supplied that care would be the first to acknowledge the value of the excellent domestic management. In everything that relates to regularity, to cleanliness, to feeding, and to general habits, the rules at St. John's House might serve as models for general adoption, and we should regard Miss Dampier as adding largely to her claims upon the public if she would take measures for rendering her institution a training-school for young nurses, as well as a harbour of refuge for infants who might otherwise be left to perish.

DENNIS REES, the young man who is said to have a mania for attacking children, and lately seriously injured a boy at Willesden by striking him on the head with a flat iron, was again brought up, on Monday, at the Marylebone Police Court. The boy, it was stated, was still in a very precarious condition. A piece of the skull was chipped out by the blow, and the fragment of bone was found in the grass by the side of the ditch where the child fell when knocked down. Mr. D'Eyncourt committed the prisoner for trial.

THE EDUCATION ACT.—On Wednesday the fortnightly meeting of the Town Council of Sunderland was held in the Council Chamber, which was filled by burgesses, in anticipation of another debate upon the subject of the School Board precept. The discussion arose upon a motion submitted by Mr. Simey, on behalf of the Church party, to the effect that the money should at once be paid, and was throughout most acrimonious and disorderly, so much so that the chairman had several times to leave the chair. Mr. Candlish, the borough member, appealed to the council to agree to a compromise—namely, to allow the case to come before the Court of Queen's Bench, in order that they might obtain an enunciation of law. This would stop local action, and remit the question to the Imperial Parliament. Another motion, emanating from the Church party, was made to the effect that the School Board should be required to agree to a friendly case being submitted to the Judges. On a division the amendment was carried by a majority of one. The Nonconformists challenged two more divisions, but were again twice defeated.

FATAL RAILWAY COLLISIONS.—A collision occurred near the Wortley station, on the Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire Railway, on Monday evening. The express-train from Manchester to Sheffield should leave Penistone at 4.40 p.m., but as it was six minutes late, a slow train, which should leave at 4.45, was dispatched before it, a luggage train having been sent on just before. On approaching the Wortley station the lights were on for the luggage-train to go into the siding, and there it proceeded. The driver of the slow passenger-train, mistaking the lights, also ran into the siding. The driver of the express, which was just behind, fell into a similar mistake, and a terrible collision ensued. The engine of the express dashed into the brake-van of the slow train, breaking it into fragments and severely injuring the guard. In the first carriage next the brake-van were a man, his wife, and child, who were going from Whitehaven to Sutton. The woman was killed, and the child was much injured. Most of the passengers in both trains were very much shaken, and required the assistance of medical men, who were soon in attendance. Extensive damage was done to the rolling stock, and some hours elapsed before the lines were cleared. On Tuesday morning a fearful collision occurred on the Western Valley Railway, near Aberbeeg junction. Twelve trucks full of iron ore broke loose from their couplings by the Griffin Pit, Blaenau, and went with increasing velocity towards Aberbeeg. James Phillips, an old driver under the company, was coming up with a train of empty coal-trucks, and, before he was aware, the mineral-train came dashing into his engine, smashing it to pieces, and killing Phillips instantly. The stoker seemed to know of the danger, as he escaped by jumping off. The passenger-train was due at Aberbeeg at the time, and, but for the fact of the goods being in front, a frightful sacrifice of life must have taken place. On Wednesday evening the Midland Scotch express, entering Wellington Station, Leeds, ran into a Manchester train. Two working men were seriously hurt, and several other passengers were also injured.

HAMPSTEAD HEATH.

Our readers are mostly aware that the long struggle between the lord of the manor of Hampstead and the public, with regard to the preservation of the heath, was terminated in the last Session of Parliament. On June 29, 1871, the Royal Assent was given to an Act by which the ownership of the heath was transferred to the Metropolitan Board of Works, in trust, to maintain it forever as an uninclosed space for the purposes of health and of unrestricted exercise and recreation. A sum of £45,000 was to be paid to Sir John Maryon Wilson and to Mr. Spencer Maryon Wilson for the surrender of their manorial rights, and possession was to be given within three months after the passing of the Act. Within twelve months from the same date the Board was charged to inclose and plant certain specified portions as ornamental grounds, while, at the same time, they were to drain, level, and improve the heath with a view to its use as already mentioned, to preserve as far as possible its natural aspect, and to protect the turf, gorse, heather, timber, and other trees, shrubs, and brushwood thereupon. Powers were also given to frame very extensive by-laws for the prevention of nuisances and the preservation of order; for the exclusion of rogues and vagabonds; for the prevention of bill-posting, bird-catching, or bird-nesting, and turf or gravel digging; for the regulation of assemblages and sports or games; for the regulation of the use of animals and carriages; and generally for the prevention or restraint of acts and things tending to the injury or disfigurement of the heath, or to interference with its use and enjoyment by the public. The piece of ground to which the Act applies is nearly 400 acres in extent, very irregular in outline, divided into two portions by an intersecting high road bordered by dwelling-houses, and is situated within five miles of Charing-cross. It contains several ponds, and its naturally undulating surface is now broken by hillocks and excavations produced by digging for gravel. Its turf, wherever undisturbed, is studded by ferns and gorse; and a few fine trees, mostly Scotch firs, show where avenues of considerable length formerly existed. Many of these trees have suffered greatly from neglect or wilful injury; but they nevertheless form a conspicuous and very ornamental feature of the heath.

Notwithstanding the extensive powers vested in the Board of Works, and the opportunity afforded them of earning general gratitude and admiration, we see no evidence of any eagerness to enter upon the task. Nearly six months have elapsed since the passing of the Act, and yet it is only last week that possession was taken. So far as can be seen or heard in Hampstead, nothing like inclosing or planting, or levelling or draining, has been commenced. No constables have been appointed, and the month's notice which must precede the confirmation of by-laws has not been given. The inhabitants of the neighbourhood are angry and excited about an apparent encroachment now in actual progress—to wit, the erection of a brick wall by which a householder appropriates to his private use a portion of what is alleged to be the public property. Gipsies and idlers still cook their meals at the expense of the fences of the adjacent fields and gardens. Bird trapping and shooting are unchecked. Trees and shrubs are damaged without hindrance or restraint. In a word, nothing whatever has been done, although the whole of the necessary regulations and improvements should be completed in six months more, if the terms of the Act are to be complied with.

There is much reason to fear that this delay may be caused by a very inadequate conception of the duty which has devolved upon the Board. The powers to drain, level, and improve the heath, and to plant trees and shrubs for the purposes of health or ornament, are such that the public cannot be indifferent to the way in which they are exercised, and will not fail to visit any imperfectly-planned or badly-executed design with loud and general condemnation. Four hundred acres of land, most picturesque in actual aspect, and commanding extensive views in three different directions, should be so treated as to be made the pride and glory of the metropolis. The Board have begun badly by suffering the continuance of the period of neglect and unchecked damage; but they may do worse if they fail to perceive the magnitude of the occasion, and if they omit to avail themselves of the guidance of the best authorities in the art of laying out grounds to advantage. The planting executed at Hampton Court under the direction of Le Nôtre, in many parks and gardens under "Capability" Brown and Loudon, at Chatsworth under Paxton, and in the Botanic Gardens under Marnock, remains to show how wisely the future was provided for by these masters of the gardener's craft. Mr. Kemp at Birkenhead, Mr. Milner at Liverpool, and at the Crystal Palace under Paxton, and Mr. Gibson at Battersea, have furnished recent examples of immediate as well as of prospective beauty; and all the works we have named are alike in affording ample evidence that planting not only requires a very extensive knowledge of trees and soils, but also the eye of an artist for combinations of form and colour. Any design for the planting of Hampstead Heath should not only include graceful outlines and the judicious use of the natural features of the ground, but also the careful selection of trees for permanent establishment, and of nurse trees to afford them temporary shelter and security. The work to be done is so large, and the time for doing it, or at least for fixing indelibly its main features, is so short, that we may well feel anxious to see it commenced under thoroughly competent direction. Perhaps the best plan which the Board could adopt would be to use the occasion as a means of calling forth talent which may possibly now be unknown. If three prizes were offered for designs, there can be no doubt that many competitors would enter the lists, and that we should at least obtain among their various suggestions the safety that Solomon tells us is secured by a multitude of counsellors. The money so expended would be repaid to the nation a hundredfold in the assurance it would receive that the heath would be used in the manner best calculated to promote and to elevate the tastes of all the thousands who will resort to it. Unless some thoroughly satisfactory course is at once entered upon by the Board, it is to be hoped that the attention of Parliament may be called to the matter

early in the ensuing Session, and that an expression of opinion may be obtained which will secure the early commencement and the proper execution of improvements worthy of the place and of the opportunity.—Times.

THE STORY OF A ROGUE.

JOSEPH LOCKWOOD BULMER, who is now undergoing a term of imprisonment for having endeavoured to obtain money under false pretences from Mr. J. B. Smith, M.P., appears to have carried on his malpractices for a long series of years, and to have successfully used the names of a large number of our best-known public men in the various schemes which he has concocted for the purpose of defrauding the public. He is said to be a medical man by profession, and his address, correspondence, and mode of procedure show that he is a person of education and ability. Indeed, it is doubtful whether a more daring and, at the same time, a more artful rogue has ever been caught in the meshes of the law. He not only made himself acquainted with various public movements which were popular with a large class of people to whom he could obtain ready access, but he manufactured other committees or associations which, from the very nature of their objects and the reputation of the men who were supposed to be associated with them, could not fail to excite public sympathy. His subscription-books were filled with the names of benevolent persons who were certain to be favourable to the schemes with which their names were thus cleverly identified. In the field of national benevolence peers and bishops, members of Parliament of all parties, and ministers of every denomination were made to figure side by side, and the subscriptions with which they were credited corresponded with the amounts, large or small, which each individual might naturally be expected to contribute. On the other hand, when Bulmer proposed to plunder Liberal politicians or the rank and file of the Liberal party, he put forward only the names of those firms or private individuals who were known to attach themselves to Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Bright, or Mr. Mill; and, in fact, he inserted the names of two of these gentlemen in the fund which was ostensibly raised for the benefit of General Perronet Thompson's family. Lord Derby and the Bishop of Manchester, together with many other notabilities, figure in his subscription lists, which were in some instances made up of signatures sufficiently resembling the originals to deceive an ordinary observer. Lord Derby has written to Captain Torrens, the Chief Constable of Salford, to denounce the use which has been made of his name as a forgery; but there is reason to fear that some of the sums entered in Bulmer's collecting-books were actually received by him from the persons whom he has paraded as "decoy ducks." The web of fraud is so involved that it will take both time and labour to disentangle it and to make clear the subtle line which has to be drawn between forgery and fraud. To crown all, Bulmer was careful never to carry on his impostures within the limits of the police jurisdiction in which he resided—a circumstance which accounts for the long impunity he has enjoyed and for the great difficulty of his detection. Bulmer was clearly a man of the world, who made society a profound subject of investigation, and who, in planning and executing his frauds, was perpetually on his guard against possible contingencies. He levied his black mail principally in Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Birmingham, Bradford, Oldham, Rochdale, and London; his chief arena being, as the enumeration of these places implies, in the manufacturing districts of the kingdom. He raised imposture to the rank of a science; and that he was caught at last was not so much owing to any mistake he made as to the unwearied persistence of the Chief Constable of Salford and to the detective skill of Mr. J. B. Smith.

There is reason to believe that Joseph Lockwood Bulmer is identical with the man who imitated the circulars of the Jamaica Committee, and called upon many gentlemen in the north of England in the fictitious character of agent for that association. More recently he issued circulars professedly on behalf of a fund for Mrs. G. W. Gordon, the name of Sir Charles Dilke being published as treasurer, and his own appearing as "T. S. Roundell, secretary." As Mr. C. S. Roundell, the secretary of the Jamaica Royal Commission, was put forward as a member of the committee, his motive for adopting a similar surname is sufficiently obvious. The same trick appears in the General Thompson circular—"James Illingworth, Esq., East Lodge, Leamington, figures as "honorary secretary," while among the committee occurs the name of "Alfred Illingworth, M.P.," who, it may be added, was induced by a man exactly answering to Bulmer's description to part with a substantial sum of money intended for the Mrs. Gordon fund, but which, of course, found its way into the swindler's own pocket. Some of these circulars having fallen into Captain Torrens's hands, he speedily discovered that no such person as "James Illingworth, Esq.," lived at Leamington; and this fact, with others, became a means of putting the police on the right track.

It is believed that the same rogue drew up a circular appealing for funds in the name of the Land Tenure Reform Association. The circular is headed with the name of Mr. Mill. Then follows a list of the general council, with Mr. P. A. Taylor, M.P., as treasurer; Colonel T. A. Cowper as hon. secretary, and Mr. H. Evans as secretary. The public are informed that the committee are anxious to raise a special fund of from three to four thousand pounds, "in order to enable them to instruct the public mind on this most important subject, during the recess, by lectures, dissemination of tracts, and other means." With this enlightened object in view, the aforesaid secretary, Mr. H. Evans, "has been appointed to visit the principal manufacturing and commercial centres." Another undertaking launched by the same firm is a "Fund for the benefit of the sufferers by the terrific colliery explosion at Moss Pits, near Wigan." Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart.; Sir R. T. Gerard, Bart.; Nathaniel Eekersley, Esq., and the Mayor of Wigan are announced as trustees of the fund; and Mr. Maskell W. Peace, the Town Clerk of Wigan, its hon. secretary. The circular states that, in order to give to the sufferers "a little above the parish allowance, a sum of £15,000 will be required." Mr. James Ramsden, of Derby-road, Bootle, near

Liverpool, is described as "the only authorised collector." In the opinion of the police, "Ramsden," "Illingworth," and "Roundell" (to say nothing of other aliases) are one and the same person. There is also reason to believe that a "Fund for the sufferers by the political evictions in Wales," and one for "the sufferers by the Todenorden floods," originated in the same quarter. Enough, however, has been stated to show that in laying hands upon the man Bulmer the Chief Constable of Salford and the member for Stockport have rendered the State good service; and that a cunningly-designed and mischievous system of fraud and rascality has been dragged to light not a day too soon.

LONDON POLICE COURTS.

ALLEGED FRAUD BY A CLERGYMAN.—At Bow-street, on Tuesday, the Rev. Joseph Wood, aged sixty-one, of 13, Whalley Range, Accrington, Lancashire, was charged before Sir Thomas Henry with forging an authority for the payment of £210. Mr. Pollard, one of the solicitors to the Treasury, prosecuted, and, in opening the case, stated that the prisoner had for ten years been the Incumbent of All Saints' Church, Clayton-le-Moors, Lancashire. In 1859 he made an application to the Committee of Privy Council on Education for a grant in aid of the national schools of Clayton-le-Moors, which were to be enlarged, the prisoner having represented that it was proposed to build two new rooms. Some considerable correspondence took place between the prisoner and the Committee, the result being that an authority for the sum of £210 was sent to him for the purpose of being signed by him and the trustees of the national schools. The authority was returned with the signatures, and a bill for the £210 was sent to the prisoner. It now appeared that since 1857 (two years before this occurrence) up to the present time no alterations whatever had been made to the schools, and it was only when the trustees recently applied to the Committee of Privy Council on Education for a grant that the fraud perpetrated by the prisoner was discovered. The Committee naturally referred to the grant to the prisoner in 1859, and it was then discovered that the prisoner had forged the names of the school trustees, and appropriated the £210. One of the school trustees and a gentleman of the Committee were present, and would depose to the documents and letters sent by the prisoner as well as to his handwriting. A letter from the prisoner, dated July 5, 1871, was also produced, wherein he stated that he had been compelled to appropriate the money in consequence of difficulties which he was then experiencing; but he expected to receive £1200 upon the death of a friend, and intended to refund the amount. Mr. Pollard further said he proposed to have the sworn information of the two gentlemen present read over, and then ask that the case should be adjourned. Sir Thomas Henry acceded, and the information was at once read over, and the documents and letters were produced and spoken to by the witnesses. The prisoner said he had no questions to ask. He believed all that had been said was quite correct; but as it was so long since his memory was not very clear. The prisoner was accordingly removed in custody.

"ARTHUR ORTON" IN A POLICE COURT.—At the Worship-street Police Court on Tuesday, Arthur Orton, who had given the name of George Marshall, but refused his address, thirty-eight years of age, and described as a porter, was charged before Mr. Hannay with having stolen a table, the property of George Hansom. The prisoner and two other men were seen loitering about the shop of the prosecutor in the New North-road, Hoxton, and were watched. After passing and repassing the shop several times, one of the men cut a string which secured a table-top standing outside the door. Presently the prisoner took up this table-top and walked away with it on his head. He was stopped by one of the assistants to the prosecutor, who had been watching him. The other men got away, and took with them a barrow with which they had come provided. To avert suspicion, they were all dressed with white aprons, so that they looked like cabinetmakers. The prisoner, who had given the alias of Marshall at the station, was surprised into a betrayal of his proper name when the question was put to him in the dock. He would not state anything about himself. The magistrate sentenced him to three months' hard labour.

ATTEMPTED MURDER BY A WIFE.—On Tuesday a tall, powerful woman named Shaw was taken before the Brentford magistrates and charged with attempting to murder her husband. The man was unable to appear, but it was stated that she had attacked him when in bed, and inflicted no fewer than eight cuts upon his neck and face. None of them were very deep or dangerous singly, but with the shock and loss of blood the surgeon said that he was in a very bad state. It also came out that in August last she was indicted at the Central Criminal Court for a previous attempt on her husband's life, but the grand jury ignored the bill. She was remanded.

MURDER AND ATTEMPTED SUICIDE AT CHELTENHAM.—An inquest was held in Cheltenham, on Monday, upon the body of Emily Gardner, eighteen years of age, whose throat, it was alleged, was cut by Frederic Jones, her sweetheart, late on Sunday night. She was the daughter of working people, and on Sunday night she and Jones walked from her home, with her sister Alice, to 2, Saxham-villas, where the sister was in service. The two wished Alice good-night, and three quarters of an hour later Jones went to the police station and told the police that he had cut Emily's throat, and that she was lying at the back of Saxham-villas. A sergeant went there and found the young woman with her throat cut, and quite dead. Jones has been committed on a charge of wilful murder.

FATAL FOLLY AND ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.—On Sunday morning, while the family were at church, a very lamentable occurrence happened at Badby House, near Daventry, Northamptonshire, the temporary residence of Mr. William Candy. A few minutes after twelve o'clock John Atkins, the footman, eighteen years old, and Mary Ann Avery, a girl sixteen years old, one of the maids, who had been taking luncheon together, left the butler's pantry and went into the servants' hall. The two were on the most friendly terms, the man being devotedly attached to the girl. A few minutes after they had left the pantry the butler heard them laughing in the kitchen, their laughter being immediately followed by the report of a gun. He ran into the kitchen, and as he entered the girl was falling on the floor, and the footman, who was running round the table to catch her, was calling out, "I've killed my darling! I've killed my darling!" The butler, Thomas Keefe, went to her and found that she was quite dead, the charge having entered the left breast. In the mean time Atkins left the room, and in a few minutes returned and threw himself on the body of the girl, exclaiming, "I've killed my darling love, and will die with her!" It was then perceived that he had cut his own throat. Mr. Robert Willis, of London, who was a guest in the house, bound up the throat until medical assistance could be obtained. On the previous day Mr. Candy and Mr. Willis had been out shooting, and the charge had been inadvertently left in one of the barrels of a breech-loading double-barrelled gun. The gun had been placed in the kitchen by a helper, who did not know that it was loaded. The young man who is not dead, says he was unaware of the gun being charged.

THE TICHBORNE TRIAL.—Mr. Baigent's cross-examination in the Tichborne trial was concluded on Monday. Mr. Hawkins, Q.C., put into witness's hands a letter from Arthur Orton, the handwriting and spelling of which he admitted were very much indeed like those of the claimant. On Tuesday Mr. Baigent was at length allowed to leave the box, after having been re-examined by Serjeant Ballantine. Mrs. Judith Woodman, wife of a clerk at Stroud, who had known Roger Tichborne in his younger days, was afterwards called to testify to the claimant's identity. Among the witnesses called on Wednesday were Mrs. Pearce, of Stroud; James Beehan, Thomas Ratcliffe, John Henry Mundy, and Thomas Dorley, who had known Roger Tichborne in the Carabiniers, and now spoke to the claimant's identity. Mr. Bulpitt, whose examination had not been completed when he was first before the Court, was recalled, and stated that when he gave credit to the claimant as Sir Roger Tichborne it was after he had seen him and recognised him as such. Captain Burton, the well-known African traveller, was the next witness. He spoke to having met the claimant at Villa Nuova, in November, 1868, on the line between Rosario and Cordova. The plaintiff at that time was, in his opinion, not in a fit state of health to cross the Andes. One of the most important witnesses of the day was Sir W. Ferguson, who, having examined the claimant on Nov. 29 last, described certain marks on one of the ankles, the left arm, the right eyebrow, and other parts of the body. Sir William's cross-examination was deferred until Thursday. Colonel Archibald Stuart Wortley next spoke to some peculiarities in the photographs and daguerreotypes which have been so often referred to during the trial.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, DEC. 8.

BANKRUPTS.—J. EASY, Berners-street, cheesemonger—W. J. F. NORFOLK, Coleman-street, City, accountant—the Hon. G. A. PARKER, Lieutenant 1st Life Guards—G. PULLING, High Holborn and St. John's-wood, upholsterer and cabinetmaker—R. BAXTER, Banbury, boot and shoe dealer—J. COLE, Cambridge, tailor—J. CROOK, Bradford, licensed victualler—J. DRISCOLL and E. TOURON, Cardiff, potato merchants—T. M. DODMAN, St. Helen's, builder—J. C. FIELDEN, Blackburn, cotton manufacturer—T. FIELDEN, Blackburn, commercial traveller—E. GILLIES, Halifax, physician—E. P. PRICE, Shrewsbury, wine and spirit merchant—G. E. P. WOOD, Park-hurst—W. WILLIAMS, Swansea, contractor and dealer in ice.

TUESDAY, DEC. 12.

BANKRUPTcies ANNULLED.—Rev. W. B. BAILEY, Axminster, clerk in holy orders—R. HAYWARD, Woodbridge, Suffolk, cabinetmaker—S. SCHOFIELD, Huddersfield, cotton-spinner.

BANKRUPTcies.—H. T. CAMERON, Wandsworth—G. L. KING, Bristol, attorney—J. MUSSET, jun., West Mersea, oyster merchant—A. T. FEARCY, Halesham, grocer.



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Were 1, 2, and 3 guineas dozen; now
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Very best silk Repps, very best Wool Repps.
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"I was myself troubled with a severe cough, and was com-
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This famous Family Medicine has, without the test of time
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These pills promote digestion, and are a direct purifier of
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MARAVILLA COCOA combines every high
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pital, Liverpool-road, Islington.

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REFUGEES, &c.
President—Earl of SHAFTESBURY.
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Open all the year.—SPECIAL APPEAL.—A very earnest
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The year's statistics show 1300 children under instruction;
257 placed out; a large attendance in the adult classes: 4108 men
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placed out; 47,000 persons attended the Ragged Church service;
225 servants clothed and sent to domestic service. Altogether
60,000 persons benefited during the year, at a cost of £3000, con-
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DONATIONS thankfully received by the bankers, Messrs.
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CONTRIBUTIONS are earnestly solicited in aid of this
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Highgate.

Patron—Her Majesty the QUEEN.
This Hospital depends entirely on voluntary support.
The Committee very earnestly solicit CONTRIBUTIONS.
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This Society was established in the year 1804 for the purpose
of supplying trusses to the necessitous classes.
The number of patients assisted by the Society to Midsummer
last was 57,037. Within the last three years more than 450
letters have been sent to the clergy of the poorer districts in
London for distribution among the poor.
DONATIONS and SUBSCRIPTIONS are thankfully received
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Bedford-row, W.C.
By order, WM. MOSLEY TAYLER, Secretary.

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HOSPITAL, Blomfield-street, Moorfields, E.C.
The great enlargement of the Hospital necessitates an urgent
APPEAL for aid to meet current expenses. Annual sub-
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An average of 95,000 out-patients and 1000 in-patients received
annually.
T. MOORE, Secretary.

GREAT NORTHERN HOSPITAL,
Caledonian-road, N.—The New Ward, lately opened,
cannot be fully occupied for WANT OF FUNDS. Bankers—
Messrs. Ransom, Bouverie, and Co.; and Messrs. Barnett and
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